



Cadets celebrate Armed Forces day. See page 5.

Bridgend & Porthcawl

GEM



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THURSDAY, JULY 3RD, 2014

A maneating plant on loose!
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In Business Update
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Fun day climax to Pyle & Kenfig Hill Community Festival Week



ABOVE:
A fun day concluded the successful Pyle and Kenfig Hill Community Festival Week.
(FOR MORE IMAGES OF THE DAY, TURN TO PAGE 40).

School fines proposal... **COUNCIL SET TO CONSULT PUBLIC**

A CONSULTATION is under way over plans to fine parents and carers – as a further measure to help tackle poor school attendance, truancy and persistent lateness.

New national regulations have come into force requiring all local authorities to implement the use of fixed penalty notices for unauthorised absences from school.

A joint code of conduct is to be adopted by five local authorities in south Wales so that the legislation is applied consistently.

Cabinet members from Bridgend County Borough Council have agreed proposals that would give the council's education welfare service powers to impose fines to help improve school attendance, it has been revealed.

It is proposed that the initial penalty notice will be £60, rising to £120 if payment isn't made within a specified period of time.

Following cabinet members' approval, a draft code of conduct has been submitted to Welsh Government.

Once finalised, the code of conduct will then need to be put in place by the start of the autumn term in September 2014.

(CONTINUED
ON PAGE 3)

Prince turns the tables on the media pack...

'Now let's see how you like it!'



ABOVE: Prince Charles was keen to get to grips with Sony's latest technology – and turn the tables on the watching media pack!

SONY UK in Bridgend welcomed Prince Charles to its factory on Tuesday (July 1) as part of its 40th anniversary celebrations.

The Prince was greeted by the site's managing director, Steve Dalton, as well as key representatives from the Sony Corporation and Japanese community.

The Prince jokingly tried out one of the company's cameras in front of the watching press corps.

Mr Dalton said: "To have His Royal Highness visit the site during his annual summer visit to Wales, and show him how the business has grown in this time, is extremely exciting."

Razors theft: police appeal

POLICE in Maesteg have released this CCTV image following shoplifting incidents at local Wilkinson and Asda stores, when razors worth around £450 were taken.

Anyone who can identify the person pictured is asked to call South Wales Police on 101, quoting crime reference number 1400222705. www.crimestoppers.co.uk/give-information.



Crimestoppers can be contacted free and anonymously on 0800 555 111, or via their website www.crimestoppers.co.uk/give-information.

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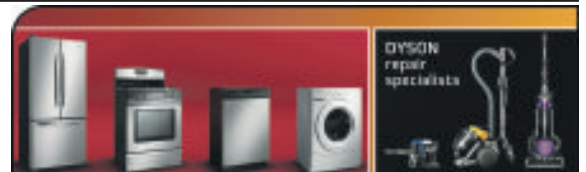
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MPs impressed by British Lung Foundation

BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon and Ogmere MP Huw Irranca Davies visited the local Breathe Easy support group information day at the Halo Leisure centre in Bridgend to learn how they can support constituents with COPD, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease.

They were "impressed" by the dedication of the staff and volunteers who were present to provide information on the range of support available locally.

A support group run by Elin Jones meets every third Tuesday in the month at the Litchard and Coity community centre and anyone with COPD is welcome to attend. Elin makes everyone welcome and organises a range of speakers and activities making the meeting enjoyable and informative.

Sufferers of COPD are encouraged to ask their GP to refer them to the Pulmonary Rehabilitation Course in Ynysawdre run by a physiotherapist

and nurse which helps rebuild capacity through exercise. There is a waiting list for the initial seven week course so an early referral is advised. The course comprises one hour of information and awareness building and one hour of exercise which Julie Griffiths, who attends the course told the MPs she thought was wonderful, and had helped her a lot.

MP Madeleine Moon said: "I was impressed by the range of information and advice available for those with COPD and the advice to sufferers to undertake simple exercise such as walking to retain lung capacity and fitness."

"We have higher than average levels of COPD locally so I would encourage anyone with the condition to join the local support group and apply for the rehabilitation course."

Huw Irranca Davies said: "The Bridgend Breathe Easy group provides wonderful support, advice and a social gathering for people with breathing difficulties. They are so welcoming. I'd advise anyone affected to get in touch."

Porthcawl school puts work of talented artists on show



Self-portrait by Matthew Aylward-Wilding.



Year-13 pupil Christopher Coulson with his final pieces.



ST CLARE'S School in Porthcawl opened its doors to the public last Thursday evening, for the senior school's annual art exhibition.

Staff, parents and family members of pupils past and present gathered to admire the large collection of work that has been carefully crafted over the last year by pupils studying art, graphic design and textiles at both GCSE and A Level.

A fantastic mix of self-portraits, abstract art, 3D design pieces, prom dresses and even a completely refurbished armchair filled the school hall and were admired by the large crowd of guests who had gathered to celebrate the culmination of a year's hard work in the art studio.

In each subject, pupils are given a lot of flexibility and are able to choose their own theme which they wish to develop. Pupils then create design briefs and extensive portfolios of work before completing their final pieces and sitting their practical exams.

The art and design department at St Clare's boasts tremendous examination results every summer. Last year, 100 per cent of pupils who took art at GCSE,

AS and A Level received an A* - A grade. As well as art and design, St Clare's offers pupils the opportunity to study textile design at A Level, a subject which also had a 100 per cent 'A' grade attainment last year.

A Level graphic design students also have an excellent record, with 100 per cent of pupils attaining an A* - B at A Level last summer.

This year is the first year that pupils have been able to study graphic design at GCSE, and after months of imaginative work in the school's Apple Mac suite, pupils are eagerly awaiting their results in

August.

Headmaster Simon Antwis was pleased to see such a great turnout at the exhibition: "Once again, it was a pleasure to marvel at the talent and sheer imagination of our GCSE and A level art and textiles students. Well done to all our candidates for their efforts. Well done also to their two inspirational teachers who continue to ignite in young people a passion for art at St Clare's School."

The department boasts a staggering value added score of 2.0 at GCSE - in other words C grade candidates leave on average with an A grade."

PUBS ARE TESTED BY THE POLICE

SOUTH Wales Police teamed up with Trading Standards and the UK Borders Agency recently to conduct a test purchase operation, involving a volunteer visiting four pubs and six off-licences in Porthcawl and

Bridgend, attempting to buy alcohol.

Nine of the 10 premises tested passed the operation, challenging the volunteer to present ID or refusing to serve them at all. The one premises that didn't pass was issued with a fixed penalty notice.

Following the operation, Superintendent Paul James said: "South Wales Police works very closely with the licensing trade but when we receive intelligence or concerns from the community that standards at a premises are not being maintained, or that young people are obtaining alcohol from licensed premises, we will take action alongside our colleagues from Trading Standards and the UK Borders Agency."

"It is encouraging that most of the shops and pubs visited passed the test and didn't sell any alcohol to the volunteer. However it is extremely disappointing that one of the 10 tested didn't ask for ID and went on to sell alcohol to, in effect, a child."

"I would encourage all off-licences to challenge anyone who looks underage to provide ID, and if they just aren't sure, asking for ID is the best way to ensure that you're selling alcohol to people over the legal age of 18."

The operation took place on Friday, June 13.

Year-11 pupil Olivia Thomas.



Year-12 pupil Joe Dunlop.

Lest we forget the Veterans...

LAST week, the nation gathered for Armed Forces Day, to say thank you for the dedication of those bravely serving in the Armed Forces.

In November, we gather again - this time in thankful memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country.

Yet one significant group may be overlooked - the Veterans who returned after service to protect our national interests, which often required great personal mental or physical sacrifice. They, too, deserve our recognition and thanks.

At Combat Stress, the

Veterans' mental health charity, we remember, support and treat the Veterans of the Falklands War, Bosnia, the first Gulf War, and those who have served so valiantly in Iraq and Afghanistan. Some will forever live with the mental or physical wounds of their service.

So let us take a moment to thank those who have done their duty and returned home. Particularly those who, in their heads, are still fighting to return to normality, we salute you.

Our 24-hour helpline is available to Veterans, service personnel, and families on 0800 138 1619.

Andrew Cameron, Chief Executive, Combat Stress.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL JULY 10)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 - 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
03 Thur	10.47	8.5	23.01	8.1
04 Fri	11.26	8.2	23.42	8.2
05 Sat			12.11	8.0
06 Sun	00.33	8.1	13.06	7.8
07 Mon	01.33	7.8	14.14	7.7
08 Tues	02.43	7.8	15.27	7.9
09 Wed	03.48	8.3	16.33	8.4
10 Thur	04.56	8.5	17.33	9.2

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

Students step out against bullying



Getting ready for the Big Walk.

PORTHCRAWL Comprehensive School's School Council is committed to eradicating bullying and helping all pupils feel happy and safe in school and the local community.

That is why they are supporting the 'Big Walk' against bullying that is taking place on July 5 across the county.

Working in partnership with Bridgend Says End Bullying, pupils at the school have run workshops and audited the views of pupils to

develop an Anti-Bullying Campaign. At the moment, the school council is seeking funding to develop an anti-bullying DVD and a contact card, so that all pupils know where to find support.

This walk further emphasises the school council's commitment and 12 pupils and staff will walk with other young people from across different schools and organisations to highlight the campaign.

Mary Hughes, a worker at BSEB, is impressed with the proactive work that is being undertaken at the school.

Nadine Thomas
(Assistant Headteacher)

Young bookworms are quiz whizzes!



Isaac Cronje and Jude Dabernig from Nottage Primary School receive the winner's shield from Deputy Mayor of Maesteg, Coun Michael Harper.

PRIMARY school children from Maesteg, Porthcawl and Pyle have been fighting it out to become Bridgend County Borough's biggest bookworms.

The pupils went head to head in the annual 'Champions Book Quiz', after they had successfully flexed their novel knowledge in World Book Day quizzes that were held in their local libraries during March.

As part of the close-run final, which was held at Y Llynfi in Maesteg, the teams had to answer 20 questions on a book of their choice.

Isaac Cronje and Jude Dabernig from Nottage Primary School certainly showed that they were on the same page, as they answered the most questions correctly to claim the winner's shield for Porthcawl.

The duo faced stiff competition from their reading rivals, narrowly beating Abbie Grant and Bethan Williams from Llangynwyd Primary School by just half a point.

Coun Huw David, cabinet member for children and young people, said: "Our library service has been running this quiz for 12 years now. It is always closely contested between the schools, but the teams made this year's final particularly exciting."

"I'd like to say a big well done to all the pupils for doing such a great job of competing, and to Isaac and Jude for winning the title for Porthcawl."

To find out what's going on in your local library, visit www.bridgend.gov.uk/libraries. You can also like 'Bridgend Libraries' on Facebook, or follow @BridgendLibs on Twitter.

Porthcawl's Flanders Field starts to bloom



THE poppy seeds sown in the roundabout opposite the Portway Surgery in Porthcawl have started to bloom and come to life.

They have, of course, been sown there to commemorate the start of the First World War and the enormous loss of life in that conflict. On Monday, the scene was irresistible and I could not fail to take a photograph.

The summer sun was at its highest and showed the poppies as a bright and beautiful carpet of colour. What will they be

by **KEITH E MORGAN**

like when they reach their peak in August, and what must they have looked like when they bathed the Fields of Flanders in red during that bloody war that started 100 years ago in 1914?

I have taken the liberty to reproduce below, the verses of John McCrae's famous World War One poem:

In Flanders Fields
In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place;

and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved,
and now we lie
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep,
though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

LOCK'S COMMON GORSE FIRE



IT was only last week when a vast plume of smoke made the news when a section of gorse bushes on Lock's Common, Porthcawl, caught fire.

Over the weekend, the damaged area was surprisingly small. Gorse clearly generates a great deal of smoke.

To contain the fire, crews from South Wales Fire Service used a digger to clear a fire break to contain the blaze.

However, the camera shows that the fire was contained within the gorse bushes and did not set the grass alight.

School fines proposal

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Coun Huw David, BCBC cabinet member for children and young people, said: "Success starts at school and, on average, pupils who have regular and punctual attendance throughout their academic career are

more likely to get better grades and make the most of the educational opportunities available to them.

"Parents have a legal responsibility to ensure that their children attend school and our Education Welfare Service will always work with local families to help resolve

any problems or obstacles that may stand in their way.

"Fixed penalty notices will provide an additional option that can be used as part of a range of measures to tackle circumstances of pupils being absent from school without acceptable reasons, and we will also continue to have the option of resorting to legal measures when necessary.

"It is recommended that all requests for holidays during term time should only be granted in exceptional circumstances, and it is being proposed that penalty notices will be used when pupils have taken at least five unauthorised days off school during a term, or

consistently arrive late at school after the close of the registration period, or take unauthorised holidays during term time.

He added: "Evidence has found that a child with less than 80 per cent attendance will only achieve an average of four GCSEs while also missing the equivalent of an entire year of school. That's why we need the full co-operation of parents to ensure that children do not miss school, and can benefit from the very best start in life that we can give them."

V i s i t
www.bridgend.gov.uk/consultation. The consultation will be open until August 4.

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Quiet before the storm, as town revels in summer 1914

CERI JOSEPH STEPS BACK IN TIME



Porthcawl camp 1914.



The Lady Moyra steamer.

PORHCRAWL'S summer continued with confidence. Mention of a foreign Archduke assassinated, somewhere in the Balkans the month before, held little significance for this thriving town.

In early July, the success that Porthcawl had been enjoying as a fashionable resort was affirmed with the arrival of French and Belgian tourism delegates. Harmonious renderings of the 'Marseillaise', in Welsh, could be heard in John Street as the foreign guests enjoyed their lunch at the Porthcawl Hotel.

The visitors, who hailed from Mons, Ghent, Brussels and Paris, wished to forge links with "the healthiest resort in Wales." (Porthcawl News 1914).

Elsewhere the Pavilion, in Highfield Avenue, re-opened after refurbishment with Mr Gerald Darrell, the manager promising some attractive fare for the coming season, including the celebrated Dan Leno Jr; while the Pavilion Orchestra began their summer season of concerts in the bandstand.

The speed trials at Rest Bay attracted 1,000 motor machines of all kinds and P&A Campbell steamers operated a full programme of excursions to Weston-Super-Mare, Mumbles and Ilfracombe. The Nottage Unitarian Sunday School, too, enjoyed an outing to the Mumbles by train.

Meanwhile, the Porthcawl Urban District Council continued to hold discussions with the Porthcawl Gas Company over its purchase, in order to meet the rapidly



On the front.

growing demand for gas. Besides a growing residential population, it was estimated that on a particularly fine day in the summer, Porthcawl could expect over 7,000 visitors.

The lack of seats available for visitors between the Esplanade and Newton was resolved; and following the numerous influx of cars that summer, road surfaces required such attention that a steamroller was purchased for the town.

In the pursuit of attracting even more tourists, the council invited the eminent aviator Henri Salmel, in his Bleriot Monoplane, to visit the town and sent a request to the War Office for a temporary warship. "If Ilfracombe can have three, why can't we have at least one?" (Porthcawl News July 1914.)

The GWR had finally agreed to begin filling in the inner dock; and a drinking fountain was

proposed for the front, looking down John Street, in honour of Queen Alexandra. However, all did not favour it, as it was felt that the £15 collected would be better spent on a drinking trough for horses.

The regiments may well have agreed, as an increased number of regiments held their training camps at Porthcawl that July. The 3rd Battalion Welsh Regiment, the 3rd Battalion Cheshire, the Glamorgan Yeomanry, the Mounted RAMC, Royal Horse Artillery, the South Wales Field Ambulance and Red Cross Nurses.

Was this heightened influx of military might any indication of an impending conflict?

Austria - Hungary declared war on Serbia on July 28, followed by Russian mobilization.

On August 1, while Porthcawl's townsfolk and visitors enjoyed the

Bank Holiday including Henry Studt's New Jungle Scenic Railway, steamer excursions, sea-bathing and concerts at the Coliseum, Germany declared war on Russia.

The day before on July 31, the 3rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers had already left Porthcawl, as they were ordered to Pembroke Dock to defend Milford Haven; thus releasing the Border Regiment, who were ordered to Scotland. Britain was beginning to mobilize. Porthcawl was soon to witness a great change.

Join me next month, as we learn how Porthcawlians met the challenges of war!

CERI JOSEPH

Porthcawl Museum.

•For further details about the Porthcawl Museum's First World War Centenary Exhibition, or how to become a member, visit their website at porthcawlthegreatwar.com.



Children in the Welsh Language Flying Start facility at Lon-y-Parc in Caerau, have enjoyed getting on board the mobile library to develop a love of books and reading.

Flying Start targets reading in Caerau

THE Flying Start programme in Bridgend county borough is offering children in Caerau the chance to hop on board a mobile library.

Flying Start aims to give families living in disadvantaged communities the best possible start in life, and youngsters attending the county borough's only Welsh language provision at Lon-y-Parc in Caerau visited the mobile library to help develop a love of books and reading.

Families living in Caerau have three different Flying Start provisions available to them. In addition to the Welsh language 'Cylch Meithrin Dechrau'n Deg' at Lon-y-Parc, which serves families living on nearby estates such as Blaencraau, Caerau Park and the Tudor Estate, Flying Start services are also based at Caerau School and the OAP Hall.

Urging eligible parents to make the most of the Welsh Government funded programme, Coun Huw David, Bridgend County Borough Council's cabinet member for children and young people, said: "Flying Start is creating a range of fantastic opportunities to help families with

their children's development in the early years.

"Having access to books from a young age makes such a positive difference to a child's life, so it's great that the mobile library added a new stop on its route to call in on the children at Lon-y-Parc.

"Since the 'Cylch Meithrin Dechrau'n Deg' opened three years ago in Caerau, it has also offered a number of other activities such as toddler yoga, gymnastics and monkey music, all of which make an excellent contribution to a child's health and wellbeing."

Coun David added: "Well over 1,100 children in Bridgend county borough are now

receiving Flying Start services, with the programme being offered in areas of Cornelly, Bettws, Wildmill, Brackla, Cefn Glas, Maesteg, Sarn and Blackmill, and we have recently received confirmation of Welsh Government funding for a Flying Start centre that will be open in Lewistown by March 2015."

The Welsh Language 'Cylch Meithrin Dechrau'n Deg' at Lon-y-Parc in Caerau runs Monday to Friday from 9.15 am - 11.15 am. English language sessions will also soon be available in the afternoons. To find out more, telephone 01656 732401.



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Armed Forces Day ceremony ends busy June



Cadets with RAFBF collection.

Flag raising ceremony
Sarn Community Centre.

Cadets with RAFA collection.

LAST weekend saw Armed Forces Day being celebrated across the country and staff and cadets from 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron RAF Air Cadets took part in a flag raising ceremony at Sarn Community Centre on June 27.

The ceremony was pre-Armed Forces Day and was organised by St Brides Minor Community Council. Sqn Ldr GJ Lewis, Deputy OC 3 Welsh Wing, attended the ceremony and was pleased when Mr Huw Irranca Davies, MP for Ogmores commented on the cadets' enthusiasm and application.

Staff and cadets from both Kenfig Hill and Port Talbot Squadrons were in Asda Supermarket, Bridgend, bag packing over the weekend.

Wing Commander Mike Stones, OC 3 Welsh Wing and Sqn Ldr GJ Lewis Deputy OC 3 Welsh Wing called into Bridgend to offer their support to the staff and cadets. The collection was for two organisations, Royal Air Force Association (RAFA) and Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund (RAFBF).

The final total amount has not yet been given as the RAFBF containers have yet to be counted but the RAFA collection is approximately £1,500.

Sqn Ldr Barry C Thomas, Officer Commanding 2117

(Kenfig Hill) Squadron said: "I would like to take this opportunity to thank Flt Lt Rajan and his staff and cadets from 499 (Port Talbot) Squadron for the support given yesterday, it was very much appreciated."

"Flt Sgt (ATC) K Gould, as always, has organised yet another activity that places the squadron and the ACO in a positive position in the community and I thank him for his continuing hard work".

He went on to say: "I am always proud of the commitment given by my staff and cadets, and this weekend sees the end of a very busy June as far as squadron activities go".

LINDSAY THOMAS
(Secretary Civilian Committee)



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Local school's eco committee show off their willow dome!

BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon was invited along by Nottage Primary eco committee to see the school's green achievements, including their living willow dome.

Last year, the school received the prestigious Platinum Eco Schools award, which recognises on-going dedication and involvement in protecting and enhancing the environment.

The MP said: "I met five members of the eco committee with their teacher Ms Lawrence, who are clearly enthusiastic about making Nottage a Green School. They are proud to receive their fourth Green Flag and rightly so."

"I had been looking forward to seeing the willow dome for some months, and I was surprised to see not one but two willow domes, both now in leaf and looking amazing. They were created in celebration of their green achievements."

"The eco committee told me about their successful eco projects, one of which was to join the cycling charity



Sustrans 'Bike It' project which promotes green travel. The school regularly runs Bling your Bike days, where children decorate their bikes and cycle to school which helps them to get fit and cuts car congestion outside the school.

"I also visited their pond and wild flower area and had a tour of the

school, classroom was bursting with colourful projects.

"Their understanding from this early age of the need to protect and improve the environment is inspiring and Nottage eco committee have lots of ideas. I am sure their enthusiasm is infectious across the whole school and among their families at home."

THE people of Pencoed had better beware over the next two weeks – as a rather large man-eating plant is taking over the local comprehensive school...

The drama department at Pencoed Comprehensive is busy rehearsing the latest school production – *Little Shop of Horrors*!

The main character is a little unusual, as it is a rather large puppet that grows and grows before eating the whole cast and perhaps even some of the audience!

Mrs Kay Smith who is head of drama and performing arts at Pencoed Comprehensive chose the show for the fast paced black comedy and fantastic rock'n'roll, doowap and motown style music.

It did present a problem though in that the leading role consists of four puppets gradually increasing in size which needed to be hired at a considerable cost.

However, the young performers have all got together on a massive fund-raising project to help source the costs for putting on such a



professional scale production. Mrs Smith said: "I am so proud of all my cast – they have worked so hard to raise over £700 in sponsorship from local businesses and £500 from a non-uniform day and face-painting event. Putting on a show to the scale we do at Pencoed, costs a lot of money and it is completely self-funding".

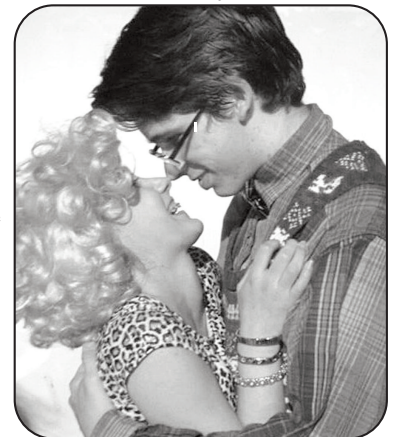
Mrs Smith always tries to encourage her pupils to be independent and they all have production roles, as well as performing in the show. Zoe Morgan, year-12, is in charge of publicity and promotion of the show and says: "I love being part of the shows at Pencoed Comprehensive but having the opportunity

to be part of the 'backstage' crew has been very exciting for me. I have been given the responsibility to approach local businesses and establish a relationship with them."

"The fundraising I have been part of has been a massive achievement for us as a cast and I am so glad I have been able to be a part of that. I would like to thank Mrs Kay Smith for giving me this amazing opportunity, that I'm sure other young students wouldn't be able to receive." **LH** *Little Shop of Horrors* is being performed at Pencoed Comprehensive on July 9 – 12. Tickets (£10 and £5 for concessions) are available from reception. Telephone 01656 867100.



Olivia Bruford (year-12) face painting to raise funds.



ABOVE: Seymour (Jevan Cannon) and Audrey (Ellie Barham).

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PRICE MATCH GUARANTEE

DIRECT ACTION CALL ON SILT

A regional Tory AM has urged Natural Resources Wales to deal directly with Bridgend County Borough Council over plans for the silt pile dumped at Porthcawl.

Suzi Davies had already written to the Minister to seek his assistance, but after hearing that taxpayers could be facing a bill of almost £2m for its removal, she has asked NRW to give Siltgate its "highest priority".

The silt, which was dredged from Porthcawl harbour, was tipped on land at Salt Lake which is leased by the Evans Families. There was a licence agreement between the leaseholders and the council which required the council to clear and reinstate the land by the end of June.

The silt has not been removed and the council has indicated that it wishes to landscape it in situ and plant with wildflowers.

Mrs Davies, who is a Welsh Conservative regional AM for South Wales West, has had a copy of the letter sent by solicitors acting for the Evans families to BCBC including chief executive Darren Mephram and deputy leader David Sage.

In this letter, dated June 30, the solicitors state that as they have not a reply to an earlier letter dated June 26, the leaseholders are now undertaking their own enquiries for the removal of the silt and the reinstatement of the land. They may have to employ their own specialist contractors to do this work.

They are also asking for full disclosure of all

reports and investigations undertaken by the council in relation to the materials that have been deposited and which have been found to contain lead, sulphate and ammonium in quantities which exceed "relevant criteria".

The leaseholders point out that under the terms of the licence, the council undertook not to deposit any materials that posed a "potential hazard and risk to human health". They also want to know what arrangements the council has made for the removal of the silt and an explanation about why the nature of the materials tipped was not brought to their attention.

Mrs Davies said: "This situation is frankly appalling. Natural Resources Wales has assured me that they are

giving this the highest priority on the basis of the known contaminants and the fact that the leaseholders have been pushed into a position where they are having to consider dealing with the waste themselves.

"Leaving the contaminated silt in situ is outside the terms of the original licence and, quite possibly, the terms of the original lease. Certainly they are being prevented from using the land as originally intended, even if that use was to leave it empty.

"The leaseholders are saying that it is unacceptable that they have been forced to make their own enquiries about what's going on and I agree with them. The council must fully disclose everything it knows about the nature of the material it has deposited on this land - which lies

at the entrance to Porthcawl and, apart from any contamination issue, is a total eyesore." Mrs Davies said that this situation had arisen because of the council's high-handed attitude towards its responsibilities.

"This is a council that does not like to consult people - it prefers to tell them what it has decided," she said. "It is time that councillors who are paid to represent the people of the borough got a grip on what officers have been doing in their name. Getting answers out of BCBC is like pulling teeth, even under Freedom of Information.

"The cost of engaging specialist expertise to remove this material and restore the site could be as high as £170 a tonne - and there are 100,000 tonnes dumped there. Potentially, the bill could be as high as £1.7m - far more than the £250,000 cost which the council put on this work.

"I will be writing to the chief executive to demand a full

explanation of how the council has found itself in this position. The cost of the harbour work is already £890,000 overspent - finding

another £2m on top is utterly untenable which is why it is imperative that the council acts immediately to deal with the fears of the

leaseholders and tells people what it is proposing to do. There is nowhere left to hide."

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Beauty spots lauded

THREE of the most popular spots in Bridgend county borough are in the running to be named among Wales' most special places.

Rest Bay, Merthyr Mawr, and Porthcawl itself have all made it into the top 20 nominations, voted for by the Welsh public in the National

Trust Wales' 'Special Places' campaign. The voting has been open for three weeks and the front runners are currently Beaumaris in Anglesey, Powys Castle, and Penarth Pier Pavilion in the Vale.

Along with a host of names from travel groups, including Visit Wales, Cynnal Cymru and CADW, they will consider the public's nominations to

decide on a top 10 shortlist of places to put out for a final vote.

The winning 'Special Place' will be announced at this year's National Eisteddfod in August.

It will be given help and support by the National Trust and their campaign partners to promote itself in Wales and internationally.



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RESORT

LOCAL SCHOOLCHILDREN RAISE OVER £3.5K FOR CANCER RESEARCH WALES



Oldcastle Primary School.



Trelales Primary School.



Woody Harries, Katy Bye, Holly Anthony, Theo Bacon, Saskia Protheroe and Olivia Chapman from Maes yr Haul Primary School.



Kelsey Jewel and Abigail Williams from Pil Primary School.



ABOVE: Mynydd Cynffig Juniors.

BELOW: Brackla Primary School.



Blaengarw Primary School.



LEFT: Coychurch Primary School.

THOUSANDS of children swapped their school uniforms for shorts and shades to take part in The Great Bridgend County Beach Party – and raise vital funds for Cancer Research Wales.

Pupils from 22 primary schools each paid £1 to wear their brightest summer clothes for the day. Their fun in the sun raised over £3.5k and counting for the charity which carries out pioneering research into the treatment and diagnosis of cancer.

The primary schools that took part were: Afon y Felin, Archdeacon John Lewis, Betws, Blaengarw, Brackla, Cefn Glas Infants, Coychurch, Cwmfelin, Ffaldau, Llangynwyd, Maes yr Haul, Mynydd Cynffig Infants, Mynydd Cynffig Juniors, Nantyllyfion, Oldcastle Primary, Pencoed, Penfai Church in Wales, Pil, St Mary's and St Patrick's RC, Tondur, Trelales, and Tynyrheol.

The Pen-y-Fai Play and Learn Playgroup also joined in the fun, and Chunky Monkeys nursery are planning a beach party for Cancer Research Wales at a later date. For Betws and Tynyrheol, the event coincided with their sports days, with Tynyrheol even holding a special bucket and spade race to tie in with the Beach Party theme.

The Great Bridgend County Beach Party was organised by Michelle Finney, who is part of a local Cancer Research Wales fundraising group, headed by Brackla resident Clare Roach.

Clare said: "We are so grateful for the support of our schools. The Beach Party was a fun way of raising money for a serious issue which affects so many lives



in Bridgend County."

Margaret Lugg, headteacher of Maes yr Haul Primary, Broadlands, which raised a fantastic £466, said it was a colourful and lively day.

"We were delighted to participate. Lots of Beach Party activities took place, with children and staff making a big effort to support Cancer Research Wales. We are hoping this will become an annual event to continue to raise awareness and funds for this important cause."

Cancer Research Wales Fundraising Manager, Laura Priddle, said: "The Great Bridgend county Beach Party looked great fun! We're so grateful to

Clare and Michelle for organising such a fantastic day of fundraising, as well as the schools of Bridgend County who have really backed this campaign and helped us in the fight against cancer: £3.5k is an amazing amount of money and will go a long way towards helping us find a cure for this terrible disease that affects one in three people in Wales."

BCBC Coun Leader Mel Nott added: "A huge well done to the pupils of Bridgend county for raising such an impressive sum for such an extraordinary cause. I know the charity will appreciate it's not always easy to find spare cash, but once again the families of our borough have shown what big hearts they have in supporting Cancer Research Wales."



Penfai Primary School.

Armed Forces Day highlight on RAF Benevolent Fund



MP Madeleine Moon is joined at the reception by RAF Benevolent Fund chairman Lawrie Haynes and injured RAF veteran Luke Wigman.

AHEAD of Armed Forces Day, the MP for Bridgend, Madeleine Moon, hosted the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund's annual parliamentary reception, held this year in the State Rooms of the Speaker's House in Westminster.

She was joined by 27-year old Luke Wigman, who was seriously injured in Afghanistan whilst he was mentoring a team of Afghan troops.

Medically discharged last year, Luke faced the daunting prospect of finding a new career. Like many personnel leaving the service, he was unsure of a future career path but with support from the RAF Benevolent Fund, he is now working as an Ambulance Service emergency care assistant.

Last year, the RAF Benevolent Fund spent more than £18 million helping

over 60,000 members of the RAF family. Of this, £3.2 million directly helped serving RAF personnel and their families, who often have very different needs from older, ex-serving airmen.

The fund provides serving families with a range of support, from helping families in financial distress to making homes of injured personnel more accessible and providing specialised equipment for children with disabilities.

It is the RAF's leading welfare charity, providing financial, practical, and emotional support to all members of the RAF family, including serving and former personnel, their partners and dependants.

This year's reception focused on how the RAF Benevolent Fund is helping serving personnel and their families, as well as those transitioning back to civilian life after Service.

Who wants to build what and where?

Trecco Bay Holiday Park – Land rear of 94 Beach Road, Trecco Bay Holiday Park, Porthcawl – Retention of secure jet ski storage enclosure, previous approval P/06/1262/FUL.
Mr James Marshall – Peter Alan Ltd, 22 Dunraven Place, Bridgend – One illuminate fascia sign and one hanging sign.
Mr Jones – 96 Wood Green, Cefn Glas, Bridgend – Fell Oak tree (TPO (no. 1) Order 1979).

Wales & West Housing Association – Coed Parc Library site, Park Street, Bridgend – Prune back branches of Ash tree to give clearance to neighbouring house, remove ivy and deadwood off Yew Tree.

Mr Makhan – Garn Inn, Alma Road, Maesteg – New shop front (amended plans received).
Mr R Chambers – 45 Blaencrauw Road, Maesteg – Garage and store.

Valleys to Coast Ltd – Land rear of 23 and 24 Bryn Glas, Cefn Cribbwr – Erect two bungalows with associated hard and soft landscaping including parking.

Valleys to Coast Ltd – Land adjacent 15 Heol Persondy, Bettws – Erect eight bungalows with associated hard and soft landscaping including parking, affecting footpath 9 Garw Valley.
Kevin Forde – 5 Oxford Street, Pontycymer – Replace existing wooden window with UPVC window.
Mrs Gillian Owens – Foxtroty, 25 Derllwyn Road, Tondur – Proposed conservatory extension.
Robert Hitchins Ltd – Kimble Electronics, Western Avenue, Bridgend Industrial Estate – Part demolition and refurbishment of unit 1000 to make the site 'fit for purpose'.
Mr Paul Treloar – Cartref, Picton Street Maesteg – Change of use of former chapel/hall to domestic dwelling.
Mr Christopher Jeaynes – Mount Pleasant, Rhiwceiliog, Pencoed – Single storey granny annexe.
Mr James Marshall – Peter Alan Ltd, 22 Dunraven Place, Bridgend – Listed building consent for erection of one fascia sign and one hanging sign.
Mr Christian Ryan – 4 Picton Avenue, Bridgend – Rear extension and loft extension to include extension of roof and

dormer window to each side.
Mrs C Cheesman – Land adjacent 59 North Vale View, Nantymoel – Proposed two storey detached dwelling.
Neville Court Accommodation – 16 Lias Road, Porthcawl – Proposed new shop front and sun blind.
Biotec Services International Ltd – Units 2010, 2100 and

2500 Central Park, Western Avenue, Bridgend Industrial Estate – Install backup generator and substation to unit 2010, new fencing and gates to perimeter of units 2010, 2100 and 2500.
W M Morrison Supermarkets Plc – 270/270A New Road, Porthcawl – Relaxation of condition 4 of P/12/878/OUT to allow opening between 0700-2300 every day of the

week.
Mr S Manley – 29 Castle View, Bridgend – Raise garage roof by 600mm to accommodate conversion of garage to habitable space.
Valleys to Coast Housing – Land off Lansbury Close, Maesteg – Erect four two-bed semi-detached dwellings and eight one-bedroom flats.



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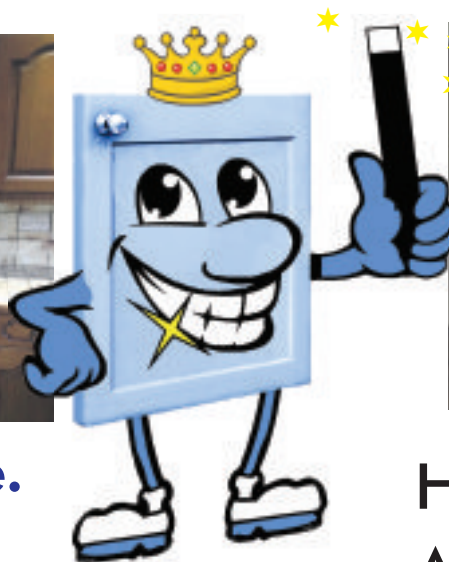
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BRYN BRINGING TWO CHOIRS TOGETHER!

WALES Air Ambulance is an all-Wales charity providing emergency air cover for those who face life-threatening injuries or illness.

The charity's three very busy helicopters cover more than 8,000 square miles and some 800 miles of coastline. It needs to raise £6 million each year to make this life-saving service happen. Enter Bryn Williams, whose son is a paramedic with the service!



Bryn Williams (pictured, centre).

A former Bridgend resident and Bridgend Male Choir chorister for many years, Bryn now lives at St Asaph in the north and sings with the excellent Trelawnyd Male Voice Choir, as well as still singing with

Bridgend. To assist the charity's fund-raising, you've guessed it, Bryn has arranged for both choirs to sing together and appeals to all to come along to support this great cause. The choirs

will sing separately and come together at the end.

The joint concert takes place at 7pm this Saturday, July 5, at Tabernacle Welsh Congregational Church, Derwen Road, Bridgend. Tickets (just £5) are available at the Wales Air Ambulance Charity Shop, 30 Adare Street, Bridgend, telephone 01656 649475; at the church immediately prior to the concert or from any chorister. Much-travelled Bryn hopes to see you there!

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Councillor's concern at reduced library hours

BARRY - based students at St David's Sixth Form College have expressed concerns about the impact of a 22 per cent opening hours cut at Barry Library under Vale council plans, and how it will affect college students trying to find a quiet place to study and revise.

The Vale Council has proposed cutting the library's opening hours from 60 per week down to 47, include early closing for the library, which is currently open for two evenings a week.

The St David's College Students told Plaid Cymru's town centre councillor, Ian Johnson, that Barry Library provided them with a quiet and secure place to study, had a range of books and resources that helped them revise and was an alternative and convenient location close to home, rather than travelling to Cardiff.

Akshay Petta, who hopes to study economics after completing his college course and is the current president of St David's Student Union, told Coun



ABOVE: St David's College sixth form students George Moyle, Adele Saif, Akshay Petta and Jake Harvey (from left to right) with Plaid Cymru Councillor Ian Johnson in the centre.

Johnson: "Barry Library has a good selection of books here, relevant to our courses, and well-trained and knowledgeable staff who know where everything is."

"It's also a more convenient location for us to study and revise after college finishes for the day. Otherwise we have to stay in Cardiff and use the facilities there, which means a late night finish to travel back home and you lose the flexibility of being able to just pack up and go home when you feel like it."

"Just knowing that you have a library close to home that's open makes a big difference."

Adele Saif, who hopes to study Spanish and linguistics, said that not

everybody has a study room or quiet location to work at home.

"When you're writing notes or revising, it's important that you're in a quiet environment so that you can concentrate."

"Not everybody has a desk or room at home that can be given over to carrying out college work, so there's always distractions such as other people putting on the tv or making a noise."

Coun Johnson spoke against the proposed cuts at a lifelong learning scrutiny meeting.

He said: "I was impressed by the way that the students use Barry Library to revise their work and borrow books that might not otherwise not be available."

"Unfortunately, these

students who are at college in Cardiff, like anybody who works outside Barry – or even works outside the town centre – will be severely restricted in their ability to physically visit the library to borrow books, read papers or use the facilities available."

"It is a successful service, and recent reports show that the Vale library service is appreciated by 96 per cent of users and that the number of loans and visitors to libraries is higher than the Welsh and UK average."

"At a time when there is so much focus being put on literacy at all ages, there is still time for the Vale Council to rethink their plans to cut Barry Library's opening hours by 22 per cent per week."

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Keith teaching his niece Sara Walker to abseil at St Donat's

Help send Keith (who inspires others) on trip of a lifetime!

by TIM CHAPMAN

Tell us your stories of First World War

THE centenary of the start of the First World War will be commemorated soon and The GEM is keen to hear from readers who have family connections or interesting stories relating to it.

The Welsh Prime Minister, David Lloyd George, coined the unforgettable phrase 'war to end all wars' when he said in 1918: "I hope we may say that thus, this fateful morning, came to an end all wars."

His idealistic wish was shattered when the world was plunged into the Second World War, but that wish reflected the hope that the millions who had died did not die in vain.

There was barely a family in the land untouched by the carnage and its consequences live with us until today.

Please send your contribution to:
gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk.

A Llantwit Major man who fought back in adversity after losing his right leg in a horrific rugby accident is on the verge of winning the adventure of a lifetime courtesy of the Discovery Channel – but he needs your support!

Keith Walker is story number three of 25 inspiring tales that the public can vote for at: www.mywbcompetition.com.

The theme of the competition is 'Make Your World Bigger' – and it was Keith's twin brother Mike who spotted that Keith's story fitted the theme perfectly.

Keith is Llantwit Major born and bred and after leaving school he joined the Royal Marines.

"I served for four years and then left because I got a job teaching outdoor pursuits at Abercraive in the Swansea Valleys."

"I was there for 15 years and had become deputy senior instructor at the centre."

"My whole life was about being active and sporty – running, rugby – Mike and I have always been very competitive and sports-minded."

"Working in outdoor pursuits was my dream job. I couldn't believe I was getting paid for it!"

But personal tragedy was lurking around the corner.

Keith explained: "In 2008 I was looking to

play a bit of rugby league and took part in a charity match."

Keith continued: "I was tackled by two people and dislocated my knee. I was in agony and couldn't feel my toes."

Hospital staff didn't realise that Keith had severed the main artery behind his knee. After an eight hour operation, he received devastating news.

"I was told I would have to have my leg amputated. It was devastating – simply from playing rugby."

"I thought my life had ended. Waiting the 24 hours for the operation was like a sentence. In the whole of my life I'd never felt so alone and so emotional. I didn't know what was going to happen."

In fact the physical recovery went as well as could be expected bearing in mind the trauma Keith had experienced.

"My longest battle was the emotional and mental one."

Help was at hand in the form of BLESMA – British Limbless Ex-servicemen Association.

"It has been instrumental in my recovery. They help former Service people who have lost limbs, whether in the battlefield or elsewhere, and bring them together."

The camaraderie and support was vital in Keith's recovery.

"I suddenly thought 'This isn't the end'. I have become involved in the sport of 'ski bobbing' (like skiing on a bike) and plan to become an instructor with them."

"My aim is to give something back and show that life goes on if you have had an amputation, and it is not the end of the world."

If Keith wins the 'Make Your World Bigger' competition he wants to take his twin Mike on the trip of a lifetime which would be to the Amazon Rain Forest, Indonesia or Alaska.

Voting finishes on Sunday, July 6. So don't forget, the stories are shown at www.mywbcompetition.com and Keith is number 3.



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Fun with a child safety message



APPROXIMATELY 200 people turned out to support a child safety event on June 24 on King's Square, Barry, organised by the Vale's Flying Start team.

The 'community education campaign' event, spearheaded by the Child Accident Prevention Team, was held to help raise awareness of serious childhood accidents and offer advice to help prevent them.

Classes from Holton Primary School attended throughout the day enjoying different activities and learning how to keep themselves safe.

Many partner organisations were also involved such as the Coastguard, Fire Service, and St John's Ambulance, and the local branches of Boots and Tenovus kindly sun cream samples to help protect guests in the sun.

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Penarth Computer Club: End of term!

AS the members assembled for the last meeting before summer, the chairman noted that he was putting together the programme that starts in September.

He reminded them that the programme is intended for their interest and assistance. It is, therefore, important for the members to say what they would like the content to be.

"Put your thinking caps on," he said and tell him by email what you would like to see in the programme.

If you do that, it could appear. If you don't, it can't! He reminded

everyone that we will be having an open evening (see below) as part of the Penarth Festival.

As usual, members who are available are invited to bring along a laptop or notebook and be prepared to answer questions about the club and what we do.

At the end of term, schools have academic tests or assessments. At Computer Club we have a sociable evening with a different sort of test – a memory test in the form of a quiz.

An exam might show up gaps in knowledge, certainly our quiz does. It is just as well that we do not take it too seriously.

No prize, but lots of fun. Perhaps the attraction is the chance

to tuck into traditional fish and chips with friends.

Kevin selected his questions from the syllabus of life. Some found that the advantages of many years of experience were counterbalanced by the infirmities of age.

Harry enjoys the company despite being unable to read the big print on the screen or hear the question-master.

I suspect one member is permitted chips only at this event. Others shuffle about within their team to make sure that their hearing aid is on the right side and the one who is still able to write jots down the answers – if anyone knows them.

At times like these we realise how limited our range of life experiences actually is. What is also surprising are the answers that your team mates know about things you are hardly even aware existed.

Part of the fun is the frustration of knowing that you know the answer to the question, but the words will not come. You can 'see' the person required, you know a lot about them – yet fail to drag up the name.

...But the real joy is when you happen to have the specific piece of obscure knowledge that amazes your friends. Unfortunately, this pride often precedes the fall of insisting on an answer that turns out to be utterly wrong.

...Kevin was thanked for his work in preparing the quiz. Everyone then tucked in to their food and enjoyed a chat. Computing might have been mentioned. Have a good summer.

We are closed until September but you are welcome to visit on July 15 at All Saints' Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth from 7.45 pm when we hold an open evening. Chat to members and find out how we could help you. Visit or web-site at penarthcomputerclub.co.uk

HOWARD DESMOND

Wales at War's bilingual tribute to fallen heroes



Dr Jonathan Hicks with sixth form student from St Cyres, who were widely praised for their presentations by the attendees at the launch aboard HMS Enterprise. Guests included the First Minister and the First Sea Lord.

THE National Library of Wales has announced the launch in Cardiff of Wales at War Cymru yn y Rhyfel (W@W), a project to develop inclusive learning and heritage activities, as part of the commemoration of the First World War in Wales.

Wales at War has been funded by the Armed Forces Community Covenant, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Welsh Government education department. The project is led by the National Library of Wales, in partnership with the Royal Navy and schools in Wales.

The project will also work closely with a range of partners, including the Armed Forces, ARCW, RCAHM, CADW, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and the War Memorials Trust.

Wales at War will create a major digital resource via a dedicated platform/App. The app will include: a First World War timeline with a distinct Welsh flavour; a Theatres of War element, depicting where Welsh Service personnel fought and using primary source materials to depict their living conditions and experiences; and a war memorial section which will include details of war memorial throughout Wales and engage young people in historical research compiling biographies of the fallen of the War as listed on their local community war memorials.

The project will raise community awareness and resonance of the memorials, drawing attention to any conservation needs and will serve as a meaningful World War I legacy for Wales and a tribute to the fallen.

Professor Lorna Hughes, University of Wales Chair in Digital Collections at the National Library of Wales, and Project Director said: "Wales at War is an inclusive, bilingual learning and discovery programme that will engage young

people in Wales in activities to develop their understanding of history. "The project will encourage reflection of the transformational impact of the First World War on life and communities in Wales."

Kate Marshall, Commander Tom Herman, Royal Navy said: "Through activities focused on local war memorials, Wales at War will highlight the sacrifice of Welsh Service personnel, and show the impact of the War on individuals and communities."

"The project will introduce new generations to the cause, impact and consequences of the First World War, on life and communities throughout Wales, and pay tribute to those Welsh people whose hard work and sacrifice is remembered by us all."

Dr Jonathan Hicks, Headteacher, St Cyres School, historian and author said: "Throughout this project, pupils and teachers will be guided in developing skills in historical research and new technology to document and capture images of local war memorials, construct biographies of the fallen, report their findings, and illustrate their learning experience through creative activities, digital or recorded, according to each pupils age and ability."

"This project will give pupils a more representational Wales at War is an important community outreach project that will foster greater engagement between schools, families, community groups and military organisations, and develop a collective biography of Wales at War."

The project will give Wales a meaningful and fitting tribute. 'To the sons of Wales who gave their lives in the Great War of 1914-1918.' (Inscription - Welsh National War Memorial, Cardiff).

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Twin town students gather in the Vale



International gathering – as the students line up with civic leaders for a souvenir snapshot.

STUDENTS from towns twinned with the Vale were invited by the Vale Council to an activities week at Atlantic College, St Donats.

Students from Fécamp in northern France and Mouscron in Belgium made the trip to join local students from across the area.

Mayor of the Vale, Coun Howard Hamilton, attended a presentation day, along with members of the Vale's youth cabinet, to celebrate the council's long-standing relationship with the twinned towns.

The students took part in the activities, made new friends and learnt more about different European cultures.

Thingamajigs

BARN dance on Saturday, July 12 at Court Farm, Penlyn at 7.30pm. Families welcome; £8 adults; £5, 18 years and under. Parking in field opposite.

Tickets available from Johana on 07940324617, The GEM, or from Cowbridge Comprehensive School Reception.



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TIME CAPSULE AT LIBRARY

A TIME capsule will be buried in a ceremony on Wednesday, July 16 between 4pm and 5pm outside the children's section at Cowbridge library.

Cowbridge library Chatterbook group will be contributing to the content of the time capsule. This is a small group of avid readers who meet to discuss books, participate in craft activities and have fun.

The Old Hall gardening group will also be providing a short talk to the children on biodiversity on Wednesday, July 16 and will assist in the burying of the time capsule.

The summer reading scheme will run from July 12 to September 13. This year, the theme will be 'The Mythical Maze'.



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Saved from capture by brother George

THIS week, with attention focused on VJ Day, I am devoting my column to the memory of my late husband, Chris, and all the other servicemen of the 14th Army, who served in India and Burma during the Second World War.

As we remember the end of the hostilities between Japan and the allies 50 years ago, I would like to share with GEM readers a few of my own poignant memories of the historic

time. After a whirlwind courtship of just seven months, Chris wrote and told me he would be coming home on embarkation leave in two weeks, and would I consider getting married. I gave my answer!

The next 10 days were somewhat hectic. I had to borrow so many things, as clothing was rationed, but with the help of family and friends, who pooled their resources, I was able to buy a lovely lace wedding dress. My bouquet of carnations was made by a friend.

My eight bridesmaids – bought

their own dresses – and two flower girls, really made my day. Our wedding took place on March 21, 1942, and my husband returned to his regiment on March 24.

We did not realise then that it would be three years and eight months before we would be together again.

Like countless thousands of other men, he found himself on the long, uncomfortable voyage to India. At one stage of hostilities, while in Burma, my husband and his troop were surrounded by the Japanese and when they were rescued by a British armoured

by **NANCY DAVIDGE, GEM correspondent for Treoes, Llangan and St Mary Hill**

division, he did not know it, but his brother George was in a leading tank.

It was several months later when they met and were able to reminisce on their experiences, that Chris realised he had been saved by his own brother...

After the surrender of the Japanese Government and the full horror of the inhuman authorities meted out to allied prisoners by their

guards, I was so very thankful that fate had played its hand that day in the Burmese jungle.

On November 15, 1945, Chris and I were united – no crowds or bands playing – just the two of us. The family reunion would be celebrated later.

After his return from Burma, Chris had three attacks of malaria which decreased in severity, but it was many months before he was really fit.

My husband sent this poem to me when he was in India in 1943. It is in his own words:

Most times my deepest thoughts reside, and rest in memory of my bride.

For, always in my heart, your smile when you, by my side, stood in such grand style; then the glorious

days we spent there after you filled my heart with joy and laughter, Then suddenly our world was stilled, and my heart with gloom was filled at the moment we kissed goodbye, I thought my world would surely die. Though all alone I may be, my dear, I think of your eyes

so frank and clear. For when we joined our lives together, it surely bound our two souls forever. But now I can only fret and wait, for the day we meet at the garden gate. From there we start our lives again, and sing through life our love's refrain.

Great War: a price worth paying?

HUNDREDS of books have been written about the Great War, but Breverton's First World War Curiosities, published by Amberley Publishing at £9.99, and compiled by prolific author Terry Breverton is different from most of them in that it is a remarkable compendium of oddities, curiosities and little known facts about 'The War to end all Wars'.

It features the greatest battles, war slang, casualties, heroes and heroines, animals, spies and weapons and much, much more.

The author certainly hasn't any kind words to say about Douglas Haig, the British Field Marshall who was appointed commander in chief of the British forces on the Western front (1915-18). Of Haig, who founded the British Legion to ameliorate the plight of ex-servicemen and their families, he writes: "There is not enough space to describe Haig's brand of idiocy during the war. Like most modern politicians and business leaders, he always shot the bearer of bad news and believed what he wanted to believe."

Breverton goes on to say: "Haig stayed away from the trenches, and would not listen to his better generals or

intelligence that he did not agree with" and "Most of the surviving infantry on the Western Front despised him."

Can it really be true that Haig never, ever visited the trenches? I seem to recall that Henry Williamson, author of *Tarka the Otter*, and a series of novels about the First World War in which he had taken part, and which I read some years ago, had some sympathy for Haig, so

the comments on him really took me by surprise.

Haig, we are told: "believed that 420,000 British casualties in 1914 were worth a severe blow to German prestige."

One thing this really interesting book may do is to make you want to read more about the First World War. It has certainly rekindled my interest. **Brian Lee**

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CRAFT FAIR

ENFYS Craft Fair will be held at the St Ffrancis Millennium Hall, Park Road on Saturday, July 5 between 10am and 4pm.

Due to unforeseen circumstances there will be no charity this month.

For more information, contact Beryl on 01446 418695, or Cyril on 01446 400149.

World War One centenary service of Remembrance

WORLD War One began on August 4, 1914 and to commemorate the centenary of a conflict, which affected the lives of so many people and resulted in such a high death toll, the Royal British Legion Cowbridge and Holy Cross Church, have organised a service of Remembrance on August 3.

The service at Holy Cross Church will commence at 11am (in seats by 10.45am please) and is expected to last about an hour.

A spokesman said that an invitation is extended to everyone in the community – and RBL members, current service personnel and ex-services people are especially welcome.

RBL standard bearers from the old Vale of Glamorgan area have been invited to attend and are asked to contact Jim Winson as soon as possible by email at jwinson@tiscali.co.uk or call the RBL Chairman on 01446 774435 to confirm their attendance.

Refreshments will be provided at the Duke of Wellington Hotel following the service.

"This is an important event and an opportunity for us all to show our gratitude to those who gave their lives in the conflict."

"Put the date in your diary, or if you are more high-tech log it into your smartphone, and let us, the people of Cowbridge, demonstrate that 'We do remember them,' the spokesman urged.

Barbecue and history!

FOLLOWING earlier successes, the Llanblethian Community Group is holding two events on Saturday, July 5 – a history trail departing from Cross Inn at 4pm for a two-hour guided stroll around the village (no charge); and the annual barbecue will take place from 6pm at Cross Inn. Entertainment is by Irish folk band Shenanigans, and there will be a treasure hunt.

Glenbrook Inn's summer menu has a touch of Hollywood!



LEFT:
The
popular
community
pub-
restaurant,
the
Glenbrook
Inn.

THE Glenbrook Inn, on Dobbins Road, Barry, is famed as a community pub with great food and its latest menu hits the taste buds with a host of fun dishes.

The vegetarian dish has been dubbed 'Meat's Not Occurring'; 'Jack Liemon' is the char-grilled chicken breast in mixed herbs with lime juice; 'Captain Jerk Sparrow' is a prime Welsh steak; and 'Oh Mama Mia' is homemade lasagne.

There's much, much more, and as Liam O'Leary of the Glenbrook Inn explains, it continues the popular pub-restaurant's tradition of constantly updating what it offers.

"The menu was created on the basis of introducing very summery, seasonal dishes from basic ingredients and putting our little twist on them."

"We've given a number of dishes

quirky names to inspire interest and fun – movie stars, pop idols, film characters, they're all in there!"

Liam believes in creating new summer and winter menus each year to provide variety for his clientele.

"People appreciate that we make the extra effort. They also appreciate that we provide vegetarian options and gluten free meals and desserts too."

The Glenbrook is also providing 'Glenbrook Ice Cream Parlour Desserts' thanks to its new ice cream making machine.

"We've also got a 'slush puppy' machine," said Liam, "to add some fun for the children and young-at-heart adults."

The Glenbrook Inn has been a go-to pub for 33 years because of its friendly family atmosphere, and the fact that Liam and his staff work hard to provide what their customers want.

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Royal couple visit Llantwit Major and Dyffryn Gardens

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DURING the Vale visit this week Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall stopped off at Dyffryn Gardens at St Nicholas and the Galilee Chapel in Llantwit Major.

They walked the gardens on a beautifully sunny afternoon and met many of the people who have helped with the fundraising, conservation, research and promotion of Dyffryn Gardens in the past few years.

They were introduced to current National Trust staff; Cardiff Beekeepers' Association; The Friends of Dyffryn; members of the Heritage Lottery Fund; and members of Vale of Glamorgan Council.

The visit was a chance to show off the amazing progress made in the past seven years and to celebrate the latest chapter in Dyffryn's life.

The royal couple were joined by the Lord Lieutenant and his wife for a tour of the house and gardens. Since the last royal visit in 2007, major renovation and conservation work has been carried out with significant funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Coun Neil Moore, Leader of the Vale of Glamorgan Council commented: "Dyffryn is one of the jewels in the Vale's tourism crown."

"We found National Trust to be the perfect partner to take the house and gardens on the rest of their journey towards excellence as a heritage attraction."

"The expertise held in the Trust, together with its broad membership and highly respected brand, gave us confidence that Dyffryn and the wider Vale will see a very substantial growth in visitors as a result of this carefully chosen partnership."

Dyffryn Gardens has been home to a number of bee hives for several years. With a lot of help from the Cardiff Beekeepers' Association, honeybees are being attracted to the area to help increase declining populations.

"We are very pleased with how the apiary has established over the years. We have lots of

new members keen to learn the craft and we are very grateful to Dyffryn Gardens for the continued partnership with us. The Beekeepers' Association is growing in success every year," said Barbara Chick, Apiary Manager of the association.

Pupils from nearby St Nicholas Primary School made colourful butterflies to decorate the borders and presented the Duchess with a bouquet of flowers grown in the gardens.

Prince Charles and the Duchess also planted a tree dahlia in the 'exotics bed' of the gardens to commemorate 100 years since the dahlia trials held at Dyffryn Gardens – when 7,000 dahlias were planted in the gardens.

Later in the summer the dahlias planted by their royal highnesses will be in all their glory. "It has been a fantastic day and I am very proud of the staff and volunteers who helped the visit go so well," commented Gerry Donovan, General Manager, Dyffryn Gardens.

Earlier, the Royal couple had visited the Galilee Chapel in Llantwit Major and enjoyed a walkabout, spending time having a chat with some of the local residents.



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Vale Show set to excite

FEW outdoor events in the Vale this summer will rival the thrills and excitement on offer at the Vale of Glamorgan Show.

This large established county show attracts hundreds of trade stands, spectators and exhibitors from all parts of Britain.

It is a diverse event, attracting an audience of over 20,000. A variety of stalls are set up on the field, with an enormous selection of goods on sale – from luxury cars to small gifts.

There is a livestock show, horse classes and a dog show.

New in 2014 is the Poultry Show, Fleece competitions, Vale Farmers Market Food Court, New Horticultural Show to mention but a few. There are over 250 retail stands with many bars and food outlets.

There is still time to be included; visit www.valeofglamorganshow.co.uk for more information, or telephone 01446 710099.

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As a general rule, as long as it's a 'soft' plastic, please put it

in your recycling container. The exception is 'harder' plastics, such as those used to make plant pots, kids' toys or even the plastic used to make your recycling box.

Cabinet member for the environment and visible services, Coun Rob Curtis, says: "Just as waste management and cleansing colleague Chris Holland shows,

you will probably have a lot of packaging to recycle.

"From your bathroom – shampoo, shower gel and bubble bath – while kitchen items may include bottles, dairy containers and plastic egg trays.

"We please ask that you rinse items – just use the water at the end of doing your dishes."

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Chris Holland



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Gorseinon and Bridgend-based Securahome has been designing and building orangeries for many of its 20 years in business, and in that time no two have been the same.

Orangery expert Nigel Hocking explains: "We start the process by asking 'how do you want to use the room?' Once the

ideas flow, the exciting part of creating something completely bespoke begins."

In these early stages, Securahome's designers create a 3D CAD model to help homeowners work through their ideas.

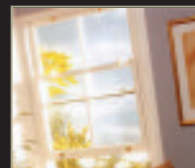
"Over the years those ideas have included wood burners vented through a pillar, fold away 'glass walls' created using bi-folding doors and ultra-modern floor to ceiling glass," Nigel adds. "Just about anything is possible."

Aesthetics aside, when you create your perfect living space, it's important to be able to enjoy it – whatever the weather. To ensure that's possible, high levels of insulation are a must.

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BARRY ISLAND WEEKENDERS 2014

FREE EXCITING FAMILY EVENTS AT BARRY ISLAND

5 & 6 July Beach Volleyball Championships

International Beach Volleyball players will compete in the Welsh International Open.
9am to 5pm each day

19 & 20 July The Isle of Fire

Barry Island will once again transform into a fiery landscape. Explore Fire breathing flowers and scorching sculptures.
From 9pm each night.

26 & 27 July Street Music Weekender

All That Jazz, The Bucket Band, The Rock Choir, Wonderbrass and Samba Galez. **From 12noon each day.**

2 & 3 August Street Theatre Weekender

Shows start at 12noon each day with performances throughout the afternoon.

Sunday 10 August World War I Commemoration Day

Barry Island Gardens will be home to a British WW1 soldier's encampment.
From 11am to 5pm

16 & 17 August Sport, Art and Play Weekender

Beach sports, climbing wall, Play Village and graffiti workshops.
11am to 4pm each day.

23 & 24 August Cinema by the Sea Weekender

SAT - THE GOONIES
SUN - MAMMA MIA
From 8:30pm each night

Bring a picnic, blanket or low backed chair. Deckchairs available to hire



Events take place on the prom or gardens and may change at short notice.

For more information please call **01446 704737** or go to **www.visitthevale.com** @visitthevale

ALL SET FOR BEST EVER WEEKENDERS FESTIVAL IN BARRY!



THE Barry Island Weekenders festival is returning to the Vale – with the Welsh International Open Beach Volleyball Championships opening the show on July 5-6.

The festival will include an Olympic-size centre court with a public seating area on the sand.

Weekenders' favourites, The Isle of Fire, will be returning with their evening shows on July 19-20, starting at 9pm, where the audience walks through a path of flames encountering fire-breathing flowers, scorching sculptures and entrancing trees.

The Street Theatre Weekender will feature on August 2-3, with performances starting at noon and lasting throughout the afternoon.

On August 23-24, the Cinema by the Sea Weekender will be showing classics *The Goonies* and *Abba musical Mamma Mia* from 8.30pm each night.



All events are free, and with the likes of musical maestros All That Jazz, Samba Galez and Wonderbrass on the bill, this year's festival promises to be the best one yet, the organisers say.

For more information on events across the Vale this summer, follow @visitthevale or go to www.visitthevale.com.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery number D833.

● £2,000: 492894.
● The rollover, which now stands at £2,000 was not won this week.

● £10: 534730, 615319, 331172, 882934, 777792, 229707, 101361, 593668, 477207, 653089, 725764, 949237, 499726, 889920, 228743, 815772, 509030, 684790, 518137, 176324.

● £5: 211292, 394389, 865051, 286181, 783531, 753570, 794557, 329508, 173166, 963889, 585146, 881695, 228320, 304453,

367959, 614023, 349078, 799566, 256056, 400870, 806235, 240399, 833105, 255068, 404753, 671791, 592204, 758641, 337365, 452341, 112153, 726476, 262635, 897804, 282228, 561731, 711929, 323805, 365486, 204471, 234716, 710630, 245298, 287318, 411711, 312988, 521991, 949393, 597476, 170322, 291882, 619207, 331481, 236603, 867034, 647667, 971029, 611, 1346, 1637.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

Garden open

THE following garden is open to the public on Saturday, July 13 as part of the National Gardens scheme:

Cyncoed & Llanishen Gardens, Cyncoed, Cardiff, Glamorgan, CF23 6NA

This interesting group has rapidly expanded from two to five gardens; three of the four suburban gardens were carved out of woodland in the 1930s when the houses were built and they are surrounded by trees.

The fourth house was originally a Victorian cottage. These gardens have a multitude of shrubs, climbing roses, clematis, hostas, succulents and ferns and many unusual plants.

The owners include sculptures and features in their gardens and spend time on landscaping: two of the gardens have been maintained by the same family owners for nearly half a century.

The group is providing inspiration to educators nationally and internationally. Open: Sunday, July 13 (12pm – 6pm), admission £4.

Please note: due to unforeseen circumstances Mount Cottage, 166 Fydias Road will not be open as part of the group, as published in *The Yellow Book*, 2014. All other gardens will open as planned.



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Burger Fridays at Topstak

EVERY Friday, Topstak will be sizzling burgers on their Big Green Egg barbecue for diners to eat in or takeaway; made from locally sourced beef, the burgers are accompanied by homemade relish produced in Topstak's cafe.

The foodie reputation of the Gallery Cafe at the Topstak showroom at Llandow near Cowbridge is growing. The café team is always looking for new ideas, and recently attended a cooking and foraging course at Kate Humble's 'Humble by Nature' in Monmouth.

The delicious variety of cakes are cooked on one of the Esse cast iron ranges as displayed in the showroom and are a real treat, with the coffee made from organic Fairtrade beans.

"We have had great feedback since launching our new menu at our cafe, especially for the freshly baked cakes and light lunches," explained Topstak director, Lynda Pedersen.

"It's good to see so many regulars and new people visiting the Gallery Cafe – who browse around the artwork and cookware store, or just want to have a good coffee and read of one of the daily papers."

Contact Topstak on 01446 771 567 or www.topstak.co.uk.

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Out and About with The GEM

Favreau's Chef cooks up a charming little dish!

WHILE he's built up a steady resume as a dependable director – with the likes of *Iron Man* and its sequel, *Cowboys & Aliens* and *Elf* under his belt – Jon Favreau is also an actor of some renown, having lined up in the likes of *Swingers*, *The Break-Up* and *Couples Retreat*.

For his latest film, Favreau stars, directs

and also writes, in *Chef*. Sadly, not a movie adaptation of Lenny Henry's mid-90s sitcom, Favreau plays Carl Casper, a high-profile chef who finds himself out of work after an ill-advised rant against a prominent critic (Oliver Platt).

Desperate to reconnect with his love of cooking, and with his career in freefall, he embarks on a road trip in a food truck along with his son Percy (Emjay Anthony) and fellow chef Martin (John Leguizamo) which sees Carl get both his career, and his

family life, back on track...

The parallels between Carl Casper and his real-life alter-ego Jon Favreau are many; both achieved early success in a low-key setting, moving up to a point where they are on the top of the tree, only to find distaste from the same critics who lauded their earlier work.

While Favreau has yet to undergo the Casper-style meltdown that sees the titular chef of the piece reconnect with his passion in the first place (or, to be fair, face severe critical

brickbats), you sense that, given this comes from Favreau's pen, the similarities are there on purpose; and much like Casper, Favreau reconnects with his passion here.

Chef is a charming low-key delight that ambles along pleasingly, without ever threatening to come off the rails, or go in a different direction.

The story moves in a predictable arc, there are very few moments of conflict or snatching victory from the jaws of success, elements that may deprive the film of any tension but they do provide moments of real beauty.

Casper's relationship with his son is fraught but not unworkable, his relationship with his ex-wife is easy going, and people seem happy to bend over backwards to help a man who, at the start, isn't the most appealing of men.

These are all facets that may ring slightly untrue through the prism of real life, but in this world they are just narrative beats that you happily go along with, and Favreau's strength is writing characters that resonate, not just Casper but his son and his best friend and fellow chef.

They're hardly fresh off the production line but Favreau imbues them with personality and spark. Given Favreau has self penned this work, it also allows Casper to have a on/off love interest like Scarlett Johansson and an ex-wife like Sofia



by
GARETH JAMIESON

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Vergara, but, hey, why can't a writer stretch his creative abilities once in a while?

Visually, the film has a loose feel, the road trip narrative that takes up the remaining two-thirds of the film giving Favreau ample opportunity to lens long roads and sunsets and savour the delights of the more colourful and appealing parts of America, while it is recommended that you

eat before you watch this film, as the lingering close-ups of the delicious food are likely to induce hunger in all but the strongest willed of people.

An all-star cast, many of whom have worked with Favreau before, take a back seat to the main trio of Favreau, Leguizamo and Emjay Anthony, and all three deliver strong turns. While it's a pleasure to see Favreau on the big screen, he has more to work with here than his usually comedic turns and he comes up trumps, with Leguizamo a satisfying foil to him, a role that is little more than garnish in food terms, but one that comes with zip and zest.

Most impressive is Anthony, the young actor more than holding his own with his more experienced screen counterparts, and showing a maturity beyond his years with a well-rounded performance.

The only missteps

Favreau makes are in a conclusion that, although fitting, wraps itself up all too neatly, lacking the weight and build-up it really deserves, and the air of idealism that sometimes comes across cheesier than one of Casper's toasted sandwiches; all in all, however, *Chef* is a delicious little offering, subtle and satisfying.

VERDICT: Jon Favreau's return to low-

key roots proves a huge success, as *Chef* is a delightful film that engages and impresses. Favreau's roles as actor, writer and director are well served, the performances are pleasing and you are defied not to feel hungry come the credits. *Recommended.*

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* (2013), *Silver Linings Playbook* (2012).

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CURTAIN GOES UP

BARRY Comprehensive School presents its Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat school production on July 8, 9 and 10 at 7pm. Call 01446 411411 for tickets.

£25 GEM FACEBOOK PRIZE

Our GEM Facebook winner for June 26, 2014 is:

Anthony Golebiowski

who correctly answered last week's question in The GEM. The answer was: **Outstanding Services to Agriculture**

Our lucky winning reader, chosen at random wins a £25 prize voucher to spend with any advertiser in last week's GEM.

Our lucky winner has chosen to spend their prize with...

Seasons, Brynmenyn

The competition runs every week throughout 2014 with a potential prize fund of £1,150.

REMEMBER TO LIKE US AND SHARE ON FACEBOOK:

facebook.com/glamorgangem

Gathering of authors in Barry



WELSH authors gathered at Barry Library on Saturday, where Vale AM Jane Huft met with local author Penny Richards, who has published a book of short stories, which was on display. They are pictured here with Barry Library organiser, Ally Singleton.

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THE 39 STEPS

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Award-winning comedy

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The 39 Steps is adapted by Patrick Barlow from the novel by John Buchan, from the music by Alfred Hitchcock, and an original concept by Simon Corble & Nobby Dimon

In association with The Cowbridge GEM, Cowbridge Amateur Dramatic Association (CADS) is pleased to offer **TWO FREE TICKETS** to the July 15, opening night performance of *The 39 Steps*, soon to show at Market Theatre.

The winners will be invited to stay afterwards and be given an opportunity to meet the cast, crew and director. The show is a hilarious spoof of the 1930s thriller, complete with chases on The Flying Scotsman, scenes from the London Palladium, genius villains, femmes fatale and an exceedingly handsome hero with a superb pencil moustache. To enter, just choose the correct

answers to the questions below, and email them to cadschallenge@gmail.com by midnight, July 8 (Tuesday), entitling your email "39 Gem Challenge." If you have already bought two tickets, we'll refund them on the door. The winners will be notified after a random draw by email. Good luck!

Question 1: Our production of *The 39 Steps* is the 2005 adaptation by Patrick Barlow. Which of the following partnerships adapted it for the stage 10 years earlier?

a) Andrew Lloyd-Webber & Alan Ayckbourn b) Simon Corble & Nobby Dimon c) Tim Rice & Elton John

Question 2: The original novel by John Buchan featured Richard Hannay (a prototype James Bond)

as its hero. How many Richard Hannay novels did Buchan write in total? a) Five b) Ten c) Three

Question 3: The Forth Bridge is one of many famous locations in the play. When did it open? a) 1 May 1880 b) 10 July 1850 c) 4 March 1890

Question 4: Another location in the play is the London Palladium. How many seats does this theatre provide? a) 3400 b) 2200 c) 4300

If you haven't been before, our small but perfectly formed theatre is at the far end of the Old Cattle Market (off The Butts, the road that turns off Cowbridge High Street beside the Market Place Restaurant, CF71 7AS). The bar will open at 7pm, curtain rises 7.30.

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Your chance to share the community news!

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: **CLIVE MITCHELL**

1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ

TEL: 01656 725399

email: tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk



Maesteg Children's Choir concert.

Aberkenfig & District WI

EUNICE WILLIAMS, the president, welcomed the members and visitor Sondra Parry to the 33rd birthday meeting on June 11.

The birthday girls of the month were Pauline Soley, Pearl Major, Mair Starr and Hilary Crocombe.

Eunice thanked everyone for their help with the successful Link social on May 23 at St John's church, Aberkenfig, in which members from Laleston, Mynydd Cynffig and Pen-y-Fai had taken part.

The Glamorgan WI Newsletter was perused and several items discussed including the murder mystery evenings, all part of the entertainment at The Hi-Tide, Porthcawl. The Radyr Players will set the scene and introduce the suspect and the audience will be the super sleuths!

The evenings will be on September 12 and October 3, beginning at 7pm.

The Glamorgan WI Show is in North Cornelly Community Centre on July 26.

The Glamorgan Federation will be submitting 12 photographs for inclusion in the centenary baton, chosen from photographs submitted by the members of individual WIs.

The baton is currently being circulated around all the Welsh federations and will arrive at the Glamorgan Federation in August. The baton will then finish up in the national centenary celebrations to be held in Anglesey next year, commemorating the formation of the WI in the UK.

Angela Bending, who has produced the

Glamorgan Newsletter for the last 25 years, has now decided to retire. Aberkenfig members thank her for all her efforts over the years.

After much discussion, it was decided that the annual trip on August 13 will be to the Brecon Mountain Railway with lunch afterwards.

Then it was time to tuck into the anniversary tea, complete with strawberries and cream and birthday cake washed down with a glass of wine or tea!

The raffle was won by Pauline Soley, Sondra Parry, Betty Samuel, Paddy Bailey and Celia Tanner and the competition for a small item beginning with the letter 'R' was won by Gillian Williams, with her submission of a rhinestone necklace.

The next meeting will be on July 9, in the Welfare Hall, Hope Avenue, Aberkenfig. The speaker will be Marjorie Page. For further information, call Dilys on 01656 725399, or go to www.cobwebs.com.

Maesteg Children's Choir

I WAS fortunate to be able to attend the choir's 28th annual concert at Maesteg town hall last Friday, which was an enormous success.

The musical director Enid-Sian Hughes coaches the children so well, and gives as many as possible the opportunity to take on a solo part.

This year, I believe, there were more solo artists among the choir members than in previous concerts, so special mention for Caitlin Jenkins, Chloe Evans, Harriet Forwood, Chloe Hevizi, Ella Coates, Lauren Coates, Cerys Davies, Annie Phillips, Oliver Forwood, Kirsty Whelan, Megan Evans-Thomas, Sarah Bickie, Emily Thomas and Samantha Cox. Well done



everyone! The dancing during the singing acts was outstanding especially the tap dancing under choreographer Susan Bickle.

The wardrobe ladies, Annette Whittingham, Cerianne Evans-Thomas and Linda Coates, had produced a brilliant and varied array of costumes.

Accompanist Ryan Wood and the band, consisting of Silvana Tambini – percussion, Geraint Evans – bass guitar, David Jeffries – guitar, Liam Donovan – clarinet/saxophone and Harvey Rees – trumpet, showed terrific expertise.

Guest artists Rhian Hughes and Neil Parker were both outstanding and sang a brilliant duet together.

Huw Irranca-Davies MP, who was the compère, did a great job in boosting the confidence of the performers by recounting the time when he appeared as the beast in *Beauty and the Beast* during his schoolboy days!

There was a special Judith Williams award to chorister Kate Hevizi for her dedication, loyalty and attendance during the rehearsals for the show.

School's success

TYNYRHEOL primary school is threatened with closure, but the public in Llangeinor have rallied to the cause and Bridgend CBC has received a total of 125 written objections.

What Bridgend CBC officials do not understand or appreciate is the fact that this school lies at the centre of the community, which the public and residents want to keep.

A new remote building in another location does not make a community school. It is the teachers who are important – the building is secondary.

Even though the school only has approximately 90 pupils, it always performs above its size in sporting events.

At the recent swimming gala held in Ynysawdre recreation centre children in the years-3 to 4 achieved third place with eight points; years-5 to six achieved fourth place with nine points (and these results are remarkable because not all the races could be entered).

The events and the individuals who put in such a good performance with results attained are as listed below.

Years 3 to 4: girls' front crawl – Ellie Street, 3rd; back stroke – Ellie Street, 3rd. Boys' front crawl – Cameron Phillips-Gardener, 3rd; back stroke – Lloyd Grabham, 3rd; breast stroke – Jamie McCann, 2nd.

Years 5 to 6: girls' back stroke – Faith Rose, 4th; breast stroke – Faith Rose, 4th. Boys' front crawl – Rhodri O'Brien, 2nd; back stroke – Rhodri O'Brien, 1st; breast stroke – Thomas Sage, 2nd.

History group

THE next meeting of the Coytraheon group takes place on July 9 in Philip Squire Coytraheon Community Centre at 7pm.

As a special guest it has a survivor from Auschwitz, Ron Jones, recalling his experiences at the notorious Nazi death camp and his survival of the long 'Death March' home to freedom. Ron was recently featured on the BBC's 'The One Show'.

Mixed chorus

BRACKLA Community Chorus last Wednesday entertained the elderly residents with a concert at the Brocastle care home.

Tomorrow, July 4 the choir will be performing



Happy birthday to Aberkenfig & District WI!

in its annual summer concert at Brackla community centre, Whitethorn Drive at 7.15pm.

It always has musicians from a local school taking part. This year it is the choristers from Archdeacon John Lewis primary school. Tickets are £4 at the door.

The choir rehearses at the Brackla community centre on Wednesday evenings at 7pm, and new members are welcome.

Tondu primary

MRS Susan Pilcher, the headteacher, invites parents and friends of pupils in the following classes to class assemblies (all at 10.20am).

Miss Grimbleby's class Cynffig July 4; Mrs Richards/Mrs Goldsworthy class Ewenni, Mrs Pugh's class Garw, and Miss Davies' class Llynfi on July 8.

The summer fair will be held on July 11 at 2pm and the PTA welcomes donations of items suitable for the stalls.

A fundraising concert is being held on July 16 at 7pm in Philip Squires community centre Coytraheon, to support local schoolboy Geraint Richards, who is receiving treatment in Noah's Ark children's hospital.

It will be a fun-filled evening with entertainment provided by the Porthcawl Ukelele Band.

Tickets will be available from Marian/Sheila/Esther on 01656 723793/841064/722950 respectively.

Town gears up for show

THE Llantwit Major Horticultural Society's 40th annual flower and vegetable show will be held on August 16, in the leisure centre, Ham Lane East.

The classes include flowers, vegetables, novice section, children's classes from under-7 to age 16; home baking, preserves and home brewing.

The show is open to the public from 2pm with a small entrance fee; children under five free.

Show schedules are available on the day, or from the allotments in Llantwit Major on Sundays from 9.30am to 12pm or at 39 Bedford Rise, Boverton, LM. For further information, call 01446 796551.

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The Davidge family reunion at Hensol draws relatives from far and wide, even Bermuda!

SIXTY members of the wider Davidge Family of Cardiff, including The GEM's very own stalwart Nancy Davidge from Llangan, came together for a family reunion on Saturday 21 June at the Vale Resort and Spa, Hensol. The weather was glorious, the setting and welcome at the Vale Resort was exceptionally warm and inviting, reminding all how the twelve children of Ted and Maud Davidge, formerly of Tin Street, Splott, later Broadway, Roath, Cardiff, have stayed so close over the generations and despite the imposed separation of geography.

The oldest photograph of the whole family was taken around 1937 and shows the twelve surviving brothers and sisters from the 16 children born to Ted and Maud. A warm and close-knit family, it continues to thrive to this day. Arthur at 87 and Phil at 79 are the babies, the two surviving members of the family and set the example for enjoying this get-together.

The family group spanning four generations, ranged in ages from months old to one just starting her tenth decade. The family is spread widely through the UK and abroad; probably the furthest afield was Margaret Davidge Ingham, who had travelled from Bermuda specially for the occasion. With so many people travelling from Hampshire, Dorset, London, Worcester, Manchester, Warwickshire, Hereford, Buckinghamshire and of course throughout Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan, timing was crucial if we were to get maximum benefit from our time together. It could not have gone better.

The team at the Vale Resort know how to make you welcome and the setting at the restaurant in the golf clubhouse was perfect, complemented by the food and the service... all thanks to the Vale! Even the group photograph was captured by a member of the Vale team... we sense a second career blossoming.

Four hours of reminiscing, laughing, teasing and suddenly it was time to go... we all departed smiling yet with a tear in our eyes... glad to have met... sorry to part... happy to meet again...

"Hiraeth" may be impossible to explain in English but anyone watching the family depart would understand it instantly. MH



OPPOSITE: This photo was taken around 1937, and shows the 12 surviving brothers and sisters of the 16 children born to Ted and Maud Davidge.



'We can keep living ... just keep breathing in!'

BETH'S 50TH BIRTHDAY MESSAGE by CAROLINE SARLL

IT was the birthday party that wasn't supposed to happen. As cancer sufferer Beth Margetson gathered with sixty or more of her family, friends and supporters in Porthcawl's Seren Fach last Saturday, to celebrate her 50th birthday, she addressed the intimate and emotional gathering with her usual fighting spirit:

"I've just got hold of all my notes – that was a job and a half, mind – to take with me on my trip to the Hyperthermia Clinic in Hanover – and I've read them from cover to cover. It's there in black and white: the doctors didn't think my case was treatable and they gave me six months to live. And look – two years this September since my diagnosis – and I'm still here.

We don't have to die from things that are wrong with us. We can keep living. Just keep breathing. In. And out... I can tell you I intend to keep breathing for

some time!"

Beth's words, delivered with her trademark off-the-cuff drollery, were met with resounding applause – and more than the odd misty eye. Her closest friends and allies joined her 86-year-old father Peter, for whom Beth cares, her husband Chris and her 16-year-old daughter Ffion, to celebrate this watershed birthday for Beth, who has become an inspirational figurehead for cancer sufferers both locally and across Wales.

Her tremendous efforts to receive the treatment she badly needed – the drug Afinitor – and her dogged battle to highlight the inequity facing Welsh patients, has touched the hearts of many. Due to the fundraising efforts of the last nine months, Beth was not only able to access the Afinitor refused her by the local health board, but is now able to embark on a three week course of treatment at the German clinic.

"All of you here have played a huge part in keeping me going," said Beth. "Without all your love, your support, your kindness, your humour – I wouldn't be alive today. I really can't thank you all enough. I want to thank those people who are coming out with me, to support me and to look after Ffion. I am so grateful to you all. And when I come back from Germany, I really do believe that I'll be fine, that my liver tumours will have gone into remission".

With her usual determination and willingness to take on the establishment, Beth continued to talk of her ongoing crusade: "No-one's going to tell me how long I've got to live. I hope I've shown you all that we don't have to have people telling us we can't have treatment. What we're doing here in Wales is not good enough. We can go to Germany. We can go to America. I haven't even ruled out Mexico!"

More resounding applause, a swell of cheers, the clinking of glasses – and an interjection from the back of the room: "Can I just say please, that YOU have kept US going Beth!" More claps and cheers of approval. Amidst the rousing oratory and the throngs of well-wishers, Seren Fach owner Julie Connick bustled to and fro ensuring that the packed crowd ("I think we've made the Guinness Book Of Records for the most people in a tea shop!" quipped Beth) were fed (extremely well) and watered (lovely cocktails).

"Beth told me it was going to be a small soiree, with just a few people! We had to get in extra chairs in the end. Beth has garnered so much support. She's a girl and a half – and such an inspiration to us all."

More and more plates of food were delivered and a superb cake, made by Beth's friend Nicola Thomas, was presented to the birthday girl, who duly blew out the candles with great gusto, before grabbing the microphone and entertaining the assembled crowd with her karaoke skills. Balloons and bunting bearing the number 50 swayed in the much-needed breeze (thanks, Julie, for the welcome fan!) and boundless bonhomie and Beth-inspired optimism permeated the extremely warm atmosphere.

It was hard to believe that this was a celebration Beth never thought she'd experience. Hard to believe at all, as she darted around the room, that Beth is seriously ill.

Finding time to talk to all her guests, flitting from table to table, Beth also fetched food for her elderly father and for the rest of her family. "Even though she's ill, Beth is still helping other people. She never stops," observed Beth's cousin Jacqui, who was there with husband Jeff and her brother David.

"Beth is not like the rest of us. We're all quiet and she's the outgoing one. She has such tremendous fight in her. She's so positive and is such an example to us all. She's trying to help others as well as herself. She's set up such a store of goodwill over the years, with all the good deeds she's done. And now she's reaping the benefits".

"This is such a milestone for Beth. I'm the same age and an old schoolfriend of Beth's – the class of '64. We're all turning 50 this year. A landmark for us all, but no-one more than Beth," said Jill Nugent.

Brandishing another plate of the much-debated pasty pie ("I thought it was corned beef pie." "Don't be daft, mum, it's corned beef tart,") baked lovingly by Beth's good neighbour Janet Sage, Beth found time to stop for a chat with me. How was she feeling about

turning 50 – and about the imminent trip to Hanover?

"To be honest, although I'm obviously so glad to see this birthday, I still thought I'd be as miserable as sin when I woke up today – 50! But actually, I feel more like 40!"

"I can't wait for Germany now – even though I haven't had the support of all the medical profession. I think people are afraid of doing things like this, of taking control of their own treatment. They feel a bit bullied, I suppose. I'm like the pariah, really. Out on a limb. But it's my choice – and I know that the treatment is going to help me. Our medical system here is so paternalistic".

Beth flies out with Ffion and old friend Beverly Poulton for support. Staunch supporters Kay Sheridan and Philippa Horton from Balkwill's will join them. I will be there the second week, along with Beth's old friend Linda. The third week, midwife Angela Hopkin, who worked alongside Beth for years and is a close friend, continues the support chain.

"I'm going in a supervisory capacity," said Angela with a wry smile. "I'm the sensible one," she added, with a twinkle in her eye. "Honestly now – Beth is such an inspiration. She was during her midwifery years and has continued to be throughout her teaching career. I'm so glad to be going with her to help."

Dealing with an illness like Beth's clearly takes its toll. Beth has already confided in me that she has moments blighted by darkness. Yet, somehow she continues to rally, her buoyant personality and radiance rubbing off on everyone she meets. This was blatantly evident on Saturday night, as Beth skilfully and adeptly "worked" the room, giving time (and food) to everyone.

Her dad, Peter, sat quietly in the corner, being attended to by Beth, Ffion and other family members. Watching a child suffer – however grown-up – is hard on a parent.

"I was so shocked the day Beth told me she had found a lump in her breast. She's a good girl and she doesn't deserve what's happening to her now. It seems that if you do good in life, you just get kicked up the backside. Beth's not a moaner. She's like her mother, who was very tough. When she was ill, she had a bone marrow transplant without any anaesthetic. Beth is made of the same strong stuff."

Husband Chris will remain at home to work and to share the care of Beth's father with neighbours Janet and John ("We're like the children's books, aren't we?") along with Pat Hill, a former midwife and Beth's one-time boss. Chris shared his father-in-law's sentiments: "She is a fighter. This week has been crazy, getting her ready and then the party. But I know this treatment is going to work." Squeezing Pat's arm, Beth said: "Pat's been like a mum to me since my mum died. I love her to bits." Pat reciprocated the squeeze. Wordless gestures can speak volumes.

As veteran entertainer Peter Lake – in fine voice – serenaded the crowd, spirits were high. The support in the room was palpable, like a benevolent balm, gently urging this next stage in Beth's battle to bring the remission everyone hopes for.

"I have faith," said Beth's dad, Peter. "I pray for her every night."

As I write this piece, Beth, Ffion and Beth's old friend Beverly Poulton have arrived safely in Germany. I receive a text from Beth on the first day of her treatment: "The doctor is absolutely fabulous, he says not to worry – he can do a lot for me. He said he likes stroppy patients like me! I told him God had sent me here and he agrees. They have made me feel that anything is possible. It's so uplifting: I feel great!"

A few hours later, my mobile rings: "Caroline. It's Beth." The tone is jovial. "Can you help me tell this taxi driver something? He can't understand me. I want him to take us somewhere where I can buy some saucepans. I told him we can speak Welsh, but he's not getting it. I keep repeating SOSSPANS, very slowly, but it's not working!" I intervene – luckily I speak fluent German – and the problem gets resolved.

How has the treatment been, I ask Beth, sensing that she is on top Beth-form. "Fabulous. It's amazing. I've had localised hyperthermia and some

Images by TOM PRICE

infusions and they will do full body hyperthermia tomorrow. The doc says he thinks he can heal my liver."

I put the phone down and dwell on Beth's extraordinary – and endless – pluck and brio. It can't be easy being heated up to over 40 degrees. In that moment, I am grateful for the contrasts that life presents. The juxtaposition of the critical and the banal in all our lives. There is "our" Beth, being virtually cooked for three weeks, in order to save her life. And what does she ring me about? Saucepans to cook her organic potatoes. A girl and a half, indeed. Good luck from us all Beth. We're all thinking of you. *See you next week.*



Beth with husband Chris and daughter Ffion.





Front row (left to right): Rev Dr Trystain Owain Hughes, Canon Rosie Harper, Rev Sister Wendy Tayler, Rev Rachel Simpson, Bishop David Wilbourne, Archbishop Dr Barry Morgan, Rev Rhys Jenkins, Rev Rhun ap Iwan, Rev Christopher Lee, Rev Tom Bates and Rev Pauline Smith. Back row (left to right): Graham Hardy (Archbishop's verger) Rev Mark Dimond (Archbishop's chaplain).

New ministers ordained by Archbishop at Llandaff



Pauline Smith.

FORMER retail worker, Pauline Smith, was ordained as assistant curate for Coity, Noltan and Brackla at a packed service in Llandaff Cathedral on Saturday.

A reported last week, it was the tragic death of her 13-year-old son in a road accident 17 years ago that sparked Pauline Smith's return to the church of her youth and set her on the path to ordination.

Her son Sam was knocked over and killed not far from their home in Ely.

"I found life very difficult and it took me many years to come to terms with what had happened – it was such a low time in my life and I felt as though I had been left with such a gap," said Pauline (53).

Eventually, Pauline walked into the Church of the Resurrection in Ely – where she had sung in the choir as a young girl, and was welcomed back with open arms.

This eventually led to her ordination on Saturday by the Archbishop of Wales, Dr Barry Morgan.

'IT'S DISRESPECTFUL' Funeral service arrangements are disrupted

by TIM CHAPMAN

A local funeral director is disgusted that someone deliberately disrupted the arrangements for a funeral in Barry on Friday (June 27).

Lyndsay Ellis of The Vale Funeral Service, told The GEM: "I'm disappointed and upset that someone could have done this."

Husband and wife team Lyndsay and Nicki have recently started to use the United Reform Church on Windsor Road for funeral services.

Lyndsay said: "We had a funeral planned for Friday, so on the Thursday evening at 8pm, I put out 'funeral cones' in front of the church."

"The purpose is to ensure that the family and cortege can arrive outside the church and follow into the chapel."

"The last thing we want is for families to arrive at the church and not be able to park and have to drive round looking for somewhere. People are under emotional pressure, and that is the last thing they need."

"On the Friday morning, I arrived to find the cones had been stolen. I was non-plussed that someone could do this."

Lyndsay had to go and get a new set of cones to secure the parking area in front of the church and, in the end, the funeral went ahead smoothly.

He has been using the United Reform Church for six weeks and arranged nine funerals there, but this is



Lyndsay Ellis of The Vale Funeral Service outside the United Reform Church on Windsor Road where his funeral cones were stolen.

the first time there has been a problem.

He and Nicki hope this is an isolated incident and won't be repeated. The cones are still missing.

Lyndsay added: "No one would like this to happen to their family and it is disrespectful."

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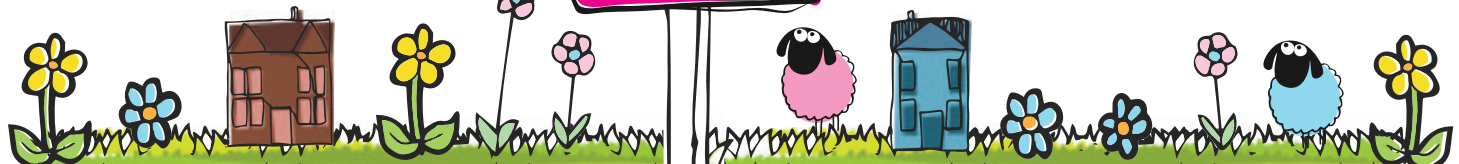
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FAMILIES FEELING THE BURN AT MARGAM PARK!



ABOVE: Jeremy and Louise McKee from Perclose, Dinas Powys, second overall, with Burn Series organiser Maria Leijerstam.

SPORTING variety was the order of the day at Margam Park's Mini Burn on Saturday: this unique innovative event, created by Maria Leijerstam, Guinness Book of Records holder and organiser of the Burn Series, attracted competitors from six years old to over 60 as pairs and teams battled through a thrilling combination of sports.

This included a 3km run, 5km or 10km mountain bike, 1km kayak and 2km orienteering course all in the picturesque mountainous landscape of the deer park. Despite an early morning and later afternoon downpour, the sun shone brightly on the competitors, as it has every year at Mini Burn.

The overall winners were Danny and James Ridley from Ffordd Erw, Caerphilly; second came Jeremy and Louise McKee from Perclose, Dinas Powys and third in the family section were Harvey and James Braun from

Kings Road, Cardiff.

"It's very refreshing to find an event where a parent can race with their offspring - I wish there were more as we both really enjoyed it," said Duncan Milward shortly after completing the course.

If you fancy a go at this fantastic family event, check out the next event at www.burnseries.co.uk.

Section winners were: Male pairs: 1. Danny and James Ridley 2. Dylan Thomas and Kevin Skyrme 3. Greg and Joel Matthews.

Female pairs: 1. Eleri Rogers Pontprennau and Sarah Evans, Heath 2. Imogen Harding and Bethany Marson 3. Anya Donian and Lisa Luttig

Mixed Pairs: 1. Jeremy Holmes and Louise McKee 2. Chris Moore and Sarah Burns-Moore 3. Gary and Lisa Monk.

Family under 10: Ethan Davies and Tracy Davies 2. Adrian and Seth Jones 3. Aled Rees and Gruff Rees.

Family over 10: 1. Harvey and James Braun 2. Geraint Evans and Josh Evans 3. Duncan Milward and Lydia Milward.



Harvey and James Braun, who won the family over-10s, and came third overall.

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Bulls beat the Titans

BRIDGEND Blue Bulls remain in the hunt for a home play-off place after a 66-34 victory over Newport Titans.

Orpin opened the scoring in the match, crashing over from close range following a patient opening set from Bridgend.

The Titans hit back immediately twice through Rhys Meredith but a duo of tries from Rosser and Thomas gave Bridgend control of the match before a scintillating solo run from Symons created further daylight between the two teams.

The second half started with the teams going tit for tat. Thomas and Rosser again finding holes in the defence to score but Dean Higgs scored a hat trick to keep the Bulls on their toes.

Mafi crossed twice in quick succession, responded to by Craig Wood before debutant Graham got in on the act with a quick double between another Symons score.

Graham raced down the touchline two times in a row, with Symons finishing off in similar fashion.

MD

Lifeguards back on the beach

RNLI lifeguards were kept busy in recent weeks, as families opted for the sunshine on local beaches.

This Saturday, the charity's lifeguards will return to a further five beaches, including Southerndown.

RNLI lifeguards will offer a daily safety service over the summer season. Working in

partnership with the Vale of Glamorgan Council, the charity's lifeguards will be ready at their posts from 10am-6pm every day until Sunday, September 7.

For more information on how to stay safe on the beach this summer, visit the RNLI website www.rnli.org.uk/beachsa fety or download the charity's 'beach safety mobile app'.

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Commercial Road £74,950 A traditional end of terrace property in need of refurbishment ideally situated close to shops, schools, train station and many local amenities. Accommodation comprises: hallway, living room, dining room, sitting room, kitchen, ground floor bathroom with separate W.C and three double bedrooms. Barry	Barren Hill £430,000 A beautifully presented and sought after detached home set within the picturesque village of Penmark. The property is set upon an imposing, elevated plot which boasts far reaching and untouched countryside views. Benefits include a driveway, gallery landing and two en-suite bedrooms. Viewing Advised. Penmark	St Brides Way £100,000 A well presented modern semi detached home ideally situated within easy access of shops, schools, public transport and road link. Accommodation comprises: hallway, kitchen, living room, conservatory, two bedrooms and a bathroom. Barry	Greenbanks Drive £234,950 A well presented detached family home situated in a cul de sac position off Colcot Road. Surprisingly spacious living accommodation comprises: hallway, shower room, living/dining room, fitted kitchen, conservatory, three double bedrooms, a single bedroom and a larger than average family bathroom. Barry	Cliffwood View £315,000 A well maintained detached bungalow occupying a larger than average plot and situated in a cul de sac position in the sought after Garden Suburb area of Barry. Living accommodation comprises: hallway, cloakroom, living room, dining room, fitted kitchen, four piece bathroom suite and three bedrooms. Barry	Blenheim Close £200,000 An extended and well presented three bedroom semi detached home situated in a cul de sac position on the popular Highlight Park development. The property benefits from double glazing, gas central heating, off road parking and a sunny rear garden. Highlight Park
Church Road £69,995 A well presented first floor apartment with two bedrooms and superb Barry/countryside views. The apartment boasts a spacious lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and a three piece bathroom suite. The apartment also benefits from a communal garden and secure allocated parking. Barry	Bryn Y Gloyyn £259,950 This FOUR DOUBLE BEDROOM detached home overlooks the lagoon at Rhosne Point. With THREE RECEPTION ROOMS, kitchen/breakfast room and two en suite shower rooms this well proportioned property would make a great family home. Other benefits include a double garage and sizeable rear garden. Barry	Nant Talwg Way £235,000 This Individually Built Detached Family Home is Adjacent to 'The Millwood' offering access to PORTHKERRY PARK in the WEST END of Barry. Accommodation offers Three Reception Rooms Plus Four Further Rooms & Three Double Bedrooms & Aile. Offered For Sale With NO ONWARD CHAIN! Barry	Hollyrood Close £148,000 A semi-detached bungalow set upon a generous corner plot and located in the Highlight Park development, offering a regular bus service, doctors surgery and Tesco supermarket. Benefits include PVCu double glazing and no ongoing chain. Viewing is highly recommended. Barry	Romilly Avenue £220,000 A traditional semi detached home located in the sought after West End location. Accommodation briefly comprises: hallway, dining room, kitchen, downstairs cloakroom and lounge to the ground floor. To the first floor are four bedrooms and family bathroom. Barry	Romilly Road £259,950 A sought after three storey home located in the west end of Barry offering five bedrooms. The property is situated close to local amenities including the boutiques of the High Street and transport links such as Barry train station allowing convenient access into Cardiff City Centre. Barry
Dylan Crescent £89,950 An end of terrace occupying a generous sized corner plot. Accommodation comprises: lounge, kitchen/diner, three bedrooms and a family bathroom. GCH & DG. Barry	Lynton Court £149,995 We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £150,000 on the above property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before exchange of contracts takes place. EPC Rating: B Canton	Galleon Way £155,000 Offering stunning views over the Bay and much of Cardiff is this much sought after 9th floor apartment situated on the rarely available Galleon Way. The Waterquater. Comprising a living room with open plan kitchen, bathroom, two bedrooms and ensuite shower room. Allocated parking space. Canton	Flordd Gardthorne £134,950 A purpose built top floor apartment located on a Lloyd George Avenue. The property offers living accommodation comprising: two bedrooms, lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom and en-suite shower room. The property offers electric heating, double glazing and an allocated parking space. Canton	Admirals Landings £115,000 A purpose built first floor apartment with water views. The property is being offered to the market with no ongoing chain and viewing is recommended. Living accommodation comprises: hallway, lounge/fitted kitchen, double bedroom and bathroom. Benefits include electric heating and allocated parking. Canton	PUBLIC NOTICE 51 Lynton Court, Chandlery Way, Cardiff CF10 5NF. We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £150,000 on the above property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before exchange of contracts takes place. The Energy Performance Certificate Rating is B. Canton



PHOTOGRAPHS by
KIM THOMAS

RIDE OF THE LIONS AT PORTHCAWL RFC



Roger
Baird



Dafydd James

A sermon that became a speech

DURING the Commemoration of World War One debate in the House of Commons, Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon admitted to 'some shenanigans' in preparing her speech.

The previous weekend, the MP had visited St Theodore's Church in Kenfig Hill to celebrate a week of local community activities, alongside a commemoration of the First World War.

The sermon was given by the Venerable Philip Morris, Archdeacon of Margam and at the end of the service, Madeleine sidled up to the Archdeacon and said: "Great sermon! Can I borrow it?" As a result, much that the House of Commons heard, the Archdeacon helped her to write!

Mrs Moon explained: "Like the Archdeacon, I wanted to talk about how people in our local communities and the surrounding area played a part in the British war effort, in the trenches and at home.

"Many of the youngsters who went to war came from farm labouring jobs and had a very limited understanding of the wider world.

"For most of them, going as far as the large town of Bridgend would have been a huge achievement; to get as far as Cardiff would have been beyond their belief; and crossing the Severn into England would have been viewed with dread.

"Yet many joined the Glamorgan Yeomanry, headquartered in Bridgend, and on August 9 boarded a troopship—the SS *Acadian*, which sailed from Devonport—for the front".

Mrs Moon told members that instead of arriving at 'the front', the Glamorgan Yeomanry, knowing only the wet and the cold of the Welsh countryside, arrived in Alexandria in Egypt.

She said: "We need to remember that the front was not just in France and Belgium. Instead of wet and rainy, the place they arrived at was hot and dusty. On the first day in camp, there was a sandstorm in which many of their tents were blown away, never to be recovered.

"They fought the Germans in Libya and Egypt, and the Turks in Palestine,

and eventually they were taken to Marseilles to participate in the last big push in France.

"Four hundred and fifty-three officers and 7,661 other ranks of the Glamorgan Yeomanry were killed or wounded."

Mrs Moon also wanted to highlight the current World War One exhibition in Porthcawl Museum, which has received over 1,000 visitors and has now been designated an official Welsh tourist attraction.

The new exhibition has a display detailing how 4,500 Belgian refugees came to Wales, and found a welcoming place. People in Porthcawl took them in and helped them find their feet.

According to the local paper, Porthcawl had "done better than any place in the country, having regard to population and other circumstances."

The same paper, the *Porthcawl News*, ran a Flemish glossary and a Belgian column in order to aid the interaction between the Welsh people and the Belgians.

The Porthcawl Belgian refugee committee, run by councillors and citizens, organised the assimilation of the refugees into the community, managed donations to the refugee fund, found accommodation and employment for the refugees and placed Belgian children in local schools.

Although the majority of the Belgians returned home after the war, in 1921 Britain had double the Belgian population.

Mrs Moon said: "We must remember the efforts of those Welsh men, women and children at home, who opposed the Germans peacefully while the military gave their lives."

The MP ended by urging her fellow MPs to come to Porthcawl on August 2-3 to see and hear illustrated 30-minute talks about the town during the war. The Glamorgan Family History Society will help visitors to find members of their family who took part in the Great War.

There will be a recruiting sergeant, period street events, and a Lions Club vintage fair, and the Rotary Club will have a vintage car display.

"We will end, appropriately, with a service of reflection at All Saints' Church, just as we will all be reflecting throughout today," she concluded.

Big five walk from capital to Kenfig Hill!



Walkers braved poor weather in order to support Prostate Cymru.

SIXTY walkers braved the elements on Saturday to walk the 27 miles from the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff to Kenfig Hill Rugby Club – in aid of the Prostate Cymru charity.

Five lads from the club are climbing Kilimanjaro in October to raise funds and awareness for Prostate Cymru and 'The Big Walk' is one many supporting events they've organised.

The walk was started at 8.30am by charity president, local businessman David Brace OBE, along with Andy Thomas, consultant surgeon at the Princess of Wales Hospital, and special guest Wales and British Lions coach, Warren Gatland.

Along the way, the walkers had a few comfort breaks and the organisers would like to thank McDonalds in Culverhouse Cross, The Aubrey Arms

in Bonvilston and especially the Duke of Wellington in Cowbridge, who supplied welcome teas and coffee for the group.

The walkers arrived at Kenfig Hill RFC happy but tired at 7pm – to a tumultuous welcome from friends, supporters and family.

The Big Walk has raised more than £9,000, which when added to other events already held, means that the total to date is already in excess of £18,000.

Further charity events for Prostate Cymru are being organised by the 'Kilimanjaro Five' between now and October, including a tough rugby tournament in Kenfig Hill on August 2.

The Kilimanjaro Five are Chris Leysdon, Mikey Guy, Ben Jones, Jamie Uren and Stephen Smith.

The Just Giving page for donations is: <https://www.justgiving.com/prostatecymruglazekili2014>.

Funding boost for local civic charity committee

THE Bridgend county civic charity committee and the Mayor of the county borough of Bridgend – county councillor Gary Thomas, are very pleased with the two events in May and June.

A coffee morning at Civic Offices on May 28 had a presentation by Fruity Bouquets, Pyle Garden Centre, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the story of how this business commenced and what they do today.

The Mayor announced the chosen charities for 2014/2015 as: Macmillan Cancer

Support/Bridgend County, Bridgend Carers' Centre and The Friends of Bridgend Youth Music.

On June 18 a coffee morning sponsored by Mr and Mrs Stephen Bond, was held at the Great House Hotel and Restaurant with coffee and homemade biscuits. The pupils from Llangewydd Junior

School entertained in the garden on a very hot and sunny morning. They were transported by coach to and from the school by Gwyn Jones Coaches, Brynecethin.

Both events were very well supported and brought £670 to the charity fund.

Many thanks to Fruity Bouquets, Mr and Mrs

Stephen Bond and Mr Gwyn Jones, Llangewydd School for their continued support.

On Sunday, July 13 at Heron Hall, Heronsbridge School, Ewenny Road, Bridgend, the civic charity hold their annual summer party – strawberries and cream at 3.30pm to 5.30pm.

Entertainment will be provided by Dawnsyr Pen-y-Bont Dancers, Aelwyd Porthcawl and pupils from Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgr. Tickets: adults £5, children admitted free; available from M Major, 01656 664105; or Coun M Thomas (01656 871439). A warm welcome to everyone.

JUNE 26 saw a special event when the Ride of the Lions called in at Porthcawl RFC's South Road ground, with Porthcawl Mayor, Coun Sean Aspey, present in his official capacity.

The ride, which aims to raise thousands of pounds for charity 'Walking with the Wounded', features former British and Irish Lions stars, plus guest riders, starting from Twickenham and finishing at Murrayfield in Edinburgh – via Wales and Ireland!

The stop-over was one of the several pre-arranged resting posts of the trip, taking in London, Swindon, then Cardiff, Porthcawl, Llanelli and Fishguard in Wales, before crossing over to Wexford in Ireland and on to Dublin, then across by ferry to Scotland's west coast, before the final cross-country leg to Murrayfield.

The driving force behind the event, staged over eight very busy days, is ex-England flanker Peter Winterbottom, aided by fellow English Lions Roger Utley and Steve Bainbridge, Scotland's Craig Chalmers and

Roger Baird, Wales' Dafydd James and Colin Charvis, Ireland's Rob Henderson, and a special mention for the oldest Lion on the tour, Scotland's Rodger Arneil, a Lion in 1968 and 1971, now into his 70s but still very fit.

The riders stopped for lunch at Porthcawl RFC and thrilled the local schoolchildren from West Park Primary, who got to meet these great players of the recent and distant past, greeting each of the riders on arrival with a rousing local welcome, before gathering for autographs on all kinds of items, plus having photographs taken.

Following lunch, the riding party presented a giant Ride of the Lions signed rugby ball to the club, before taking to the road again to meet up with Phil Bennett at Llanelli's Parc y Scarlets.

On leaving, they were glowing in their praise of the welcome they'd received at Porthcawl, especially club steward Dave Thomas, who organised a superb afternoon.

Peter Winterbottom's wife Trish, driving one of the venture's support vehicles, vowed that a future ride would return to Porthcawl – where the same warm welcome awaits!

PAUL FIELDING

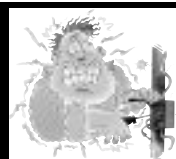
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Family Notices

COTTLE

Suddenly on 21 June at home, Roy Stanley, aged 80 years of Colwinston. Beloved husband of the late Elsie. Loving father of Michele, Belinda, Debbie, Elizabeth and loved father in law, cherished grandfather, great grandfather and brother.

Roy will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until the funeral on Tuesday 8 July. Service at Coychurch Crematorium Crallo Chapel where family and friends please meet at 11am. Family flowers only, if desired donations may be handed to the funeral director after the funeral for Cancer Research.

MILLAR
Freda

Peacefully at the Princess of Wales Hospital, much loved wife of the late Luke, loved mother of Jane and Edward, adored granny Freda of Inigo and Solly. Will be sadly missed by all family and friends.

Funeral service at St John the Baptist Church Llanblethian on Friday, July 11th at 2pm, followed by interment. Flowers may be sent to Thomas Brothers, Greengate, Ewenny Road, St Brides Major, CF32 0SB.

DAVIES
Andrew James
(Andy)

Suddenly at his home after a long illness on June 20th. Andy of Dyffryn Place, Barry. Loving son of John and Julia, loving brother of Alun, Martin, Huw and Gareth, loving uncle to all his nieces & nephews.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son, Tynwydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until his funeral service & committal at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Friday July 11th at 11.15am.

Family flowers only but donations in lieu of flowers to the Alan Richens Epilepsy Unit, University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff CF14 4XW.

HILL
Gareth

(formerly of Borough Close, Cowbridge)

Suddenly on Monday June 23, Gareth peacefully passed away at home in Treos. Beloved son of Betty and the late Peter, brother of David, Carol and Vanessa, will be sadly missed by his nieces, nephews and family.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Tuesday July 8, service and cremation 2.15pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. No flowers by request.

MORTIMER
Edith Margaret

Suddenly on June 29 at Milsom House, St. Athan, Margaret of Rhooose, beloved wife of the late Stan, dearly loved mother of Jeff and mother-in-law of the late Marlene, loving Nan of Lisa and Andrew, great grandmother of Kieran and Katelyn.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Wednesday July 9, service 1.30pm at St. Peters Church, Rhooose, followed by interment in Porthkerry Cemetery. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Cancer Research Wales c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhooose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

Family Notices

English
Mark

Peacefully on 22nd June in hospital, after a long illness fought with dignity and strength, Mark aged 53 years of Llantwit Major, devoted husband of Rachel, adored and proud dad of Charlie, Jamie, Mark and Peter, a loving grandad to Callum, Archie and Poppy.

Mark will be greatly missed by all his loving family and friends.

Funeral service at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Monday, 7th July at 3pm (where all please meet). Family flowers only please, if wished donations for the British Heart Foundation (cheques only please) may be forwarded to WA Brown & Son, Funeral Directors, Llantwit Major.

McBRIDE
Eric Armstrong
(Mac/Buster)

Passed away peacefully at Llandough Hospital on 28th June, Mac, beloved husband of Lorna, cherished father to Tracy and loving grandfather to Alexander and Sebastian. Will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Resting at James Summers & Son, Lavernock Court, Penarth, until the funeral service on Saturday 12th July at Lavernock Court Chapel at 10.30am and thereafter at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 11.30am. Family flowers only, donations in lieu of flowers may be made to the Alzheimers Society or Diabetes UK, c/o the Funeral Director.

WILLIAMS
John Bernard Salusbury

Peacefully on Wednesday, 19th June at Milsom House, St Athan, John, beloved husband of the late Mary (May). Dearly loved father of Vaughan, Brian, Gerald, Diane, Mark and Jane and a loving grandfather and great grandfather.

Resting at Southlands Funeral Home until the service on Thursday, 3rd July at St Andrews Church, St Andrews Major at 11.30am, followed by interment in the Churchyard at 12 noon. Family flowers only please. Further enquiries to Duncan Thomas of Evan E Thomas & Sons, Southlands Funeral Home, South Road, Porthcawl, CF36 3DA, telephone number 01656 783383.

KELLY

Gwendoline (Molly) Nee Trigg

Peacefully in the Princess of Wales Hospital on June 16th, aged 86 years. Beloved wife of the late Melville (Reg), much loved mother of Olwen and Rowena, mother-in-law of John, loving grandmother and great grandmother.

Funeral Service at Coychurch Crematorium on Wednesday, July 9th at 1.15pm. Family flowers only please, donations if desired through a retiring collection at Coychurch Crematorium for Ward 6 Princess of Wales Hospital.

JONES
Malcolm Basil

Suddenly but peacefully at home with his family, Malcolm, beloved husband of Cynthia, much loved father of Martyn and Kristine, adored Bampa to his grandchildren.

He will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Funeral service at St Michael and All Angels Church, Colwinston on Monday, July 7th at 11am, followed by interment. Flowers may be sent to J.R. & M.F. David, Ewenny Road, St Brides Major, CF32 0SB.

LEWIS
Paul

Jill, Jane and Julia would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for all their support, kind messages of sympathy, beautiful floral tributes and donations to Mesothelioma UK.

It was of great comfort to us that so many of you attended the funeral to say goodbye to our beloved Paul. He will be greatly missed. Thanks to the Reverend John Binny for his moving and uplifting service, to our wonderful Marie Curie nurse, St. Athan Surgery, Llandough lung nurses and the doctors who cared for Paul and W James and Sons Fonmon. God bless you all.

GOULD
Wendy Elizabeth
(1935-2014)

Wendy, dearly beloved wife of Alan, caring and loving mother to Alison, Jonathan and Sarah, ever loving grandmother of Anna, Elie and Joseph - died at the Princess of Wales Hospital on 16 June 2014 after a long and debilitating illness that she endured with great courage.

A private funeral took place at Coychurch Crematorium on Friday, 27 June 2014.

Vivian Blick
(Viv)

Margaret and family wish to thank all friends, neighbours and relations for the kindness shown during the recent loss of Viv.

The many personal messages are a great comfort to all the family.

Special thanks to Ronnie and Maureen for their constant support.

Birthday Memories

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WILLIAMS

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Your memory a treasure
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and missed beyond measure

'My Angel'

Missing you Mammy xxx

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more than
words can say
Yvonne and
family xxx

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Auntie Kelly & Uncle Chris,
Uncle Ben & Auntie Joelynn
Uncle Dan & Auntie Claire xxx



Happy Birthday

Sienna Margaret Gray

5 July 2014



Lots of love from
Mummy, Daddy, big brother
Mckenzie & family xxx

21st Birthday Wishes
SAM JONES

With lots of
love, Mum,
Nana Pat, Nana
Marlene,
Grandad
George and all
the families
xxx

21st BIRTHDAY

SAM JONES!

on 7th July

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Carrinna, Keturah,
Colin and the rest
of the clan!



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Panthers face tough opposition!



PORTHKERRY PANTHERS under-10s faced their biggest challenge of the season when their mums donned pink kits and graced the turf.

After much fun and frolics the mums wilted and succumbed!

Many thanks to all for arranging the event and to Nicola Porter for arranging for the Panthers to be featured on a BBC Wales 'Week In Week Out' documentary, which aired on July 2.

AB

Under-13s' end of season presentation



BARRY TOWN under-13s held their presentation recently, the winners were:

Top goalscorer: Brooklyn; manager's player: Lewis; player's player: Owain; most improved: Morgan.

The squad (pictured above) are:

Ethan, Lloyd, Luke, Brooklyn, Morgan, Tom, Lewis, Taylor, Lewi, Owain, Ben, Will, Matthew, Craig, James; missing from picture are Josh and Daniel.

Thank you to Gavin Chesterfield, David Cole, all the parents and families for their support.

CH

Point-to-Point awards are presented

POINT-to-Point awards which will be presented at the south Wales And Monmouthshire area awards dinner at the Holiday Inn, Newport, Gwent, on July 12. Contact John Llewellyn on 07971283262 for details.

2014 TROPHY WINNERS

JOCKEYS: Welsh Champion - Men (DR Thomas Perpetual Trophy). South Wales (Mon) and west Wales areas: winner, John Mathias. Welsh Champion - Ladies (B Thomas Perpetual Trophy). South Wales (Mon) and west Wales areas: winner, Jodie Hughes. Sport of Kings Perpetual Trophy - Most wins at any point-to-point meeting: winner, John Mathias. Bill Jones Memorial Trophy - Gentleman resident in south Wales (Mon) area with most wins within that area: joint winners, James Tudor and Nick Williams. Novice Rider, south Wales (Mon) and west Wales areas: winner, Sean Bowen. Novice Rider, south Wales (Mon) area: winner, Anna Metekohy.

HORSES: Champion Horse - (Spillers Perpetual

Trophy). Most wins in south Wales (Mon) and west Wales areas: winner, Rosie's Peacock (Mr DH Llewellyn, south Pems).

Champion Mare: (Elfyn David Memorial Trophy) south Wales (Mon) and west Wales areas: joint winners, Chesnut Annie (Miss B Roberts, Ystrad Taf Fechan) and Millys Delight (Mr J Nicholas, Ystrad Taf Fechan).

Maiden Horse: (George L Williams Memorial Trophy) south Wales (Mon) area: joint winners, Canshetrain (Mr R Jones, Glamorgan), Once In A Lifetime (Mr L Price, Ystrad Taf Fechan) and Repeat Business (Mrs J Bird, Llangeinor).

Champion Older Horse: (Lord Charles Trophy) 12 years or over - south Wales (Mon) and west Wales areas: winner, Chesnut Annie (Miss B Roberts, Ystrad Taf Fechan).

Champion Open/Hunter Chase Horse: (Peter Curry Memorial Trophy). Most wins in Open Point to Points/Hunter Chases, south Wales (Mon) area horses: winner, Findlay's Find (Mr PB Miles, Ystrad Taf Fechan).

Champion Pentyrch Qualified Horse: (Lynford Evans Memorial Trophy): winner not allocated.

VALE SCHOOLS HOST PARAGAMES EVENT

Over 200 pupils from Ashgrove, Ysgol Erw'r Delyn, Ysgol Maes Dyfan, St Helens and St Nicholas Primary Schools took part in the Vale Schools Paragames at Cardiff International Sports Stadium on Wednesday, June 25.

The day was organised by teachers from Ashgrove, Ysgol Erw'r Delyn and Ysgol Maes Dyfan and supported by Simon Jones, Disability Sport Wales Development Officer.

Each pupil took part in numerous events throughout the day that included sprints, long jump, and a range of throwing events. The events were organised so pupils of every ability could take part in a competitive setting. Pupils from St Cyres School in Penarth volunteered on the day to help with the running of events and supporting the athletes when taking part in the activities.

Every pupil received a

goody bag from the Welsh Rugby Union who provided inclusive activities throughout the day for the athletes whilst they were waiting to compete.

The Vale of Glamorgan Play Department was also present providing face painting and glitter tattoos for everyone at the stadium.

Coun Gwyn John, Cabinet Member for Sport Development, and Disability Sport Wales performance athlete Ashleigh Hellyer attended to view the events taking place and present the winning pupils with medals.

Simon Jones said: "This is the second year the Paragames have

taken place with great success. It is brilliant to see that every pupil is catered for and have the opportunity to take part in competitive sport. I would like to thank the teachers for organising such a fantastic event; a lot of hard work has gone into the day and the success was mirrored by the reaction of the pupils taking part."

If you are looking for more information about Disability Sport and Physical Activities over the summer holidays please contact Simon Jones, Disability Sport Wales Development Officer for the Vale of Glamorgan Council, on 01446 704728 or email sjones@valeofglamorga.gov.uk.

Neijia classes

RECENTLY the Swimming Dragon School has opened two classes teaching Chinese Neijia - but what is Neijia?

Neijia is the internal martial arts of China. The three main arts are Bagua Quan, Xing Yi Quan and Taiji Quan, where Quan means martial art.

The main class is in a large hall on a Monday morning at 10.30am at the Awel y Mor Centre, Wellfield Avenue, Porthcawl, and there is 7pm evening class at the Bryntirion and Laleston Community Centre, Mt Pleasant, Bridgend.

Why not give it a try, you would be made more than welcome.

JJ

Weekend of woe for the Athletic

BARRY Athletic Cricket Club suffered a weekend of woe due to the weather on Saturday and a comprehensive defeat against Penarth in the Welsh Cup on Sunday.

On Sunday at Penarth, Barry were asked to bat first and were soon up against as they were reduced to 29 for 2 after the loss of Goodway (1) and Provis (8); the score soon went from 43 for 3 to 55 for 8 as Barry lost the wickets of N. Baker (1), A. Baker (0), R. Jones (29), P. Murphy (0), S. Jones (3) and S.R. Jones (3).

This left captain John Gee, Peter Hellyar and Dafydd Frost to show some resilience and add 50 for the last two wickets.

Gee became the ninth wicket to go with the score on 74 for a fine 9 and a partnership of 19 with Hellyar; Hellyar was then joined by Dafydd Frost as they added 31 for the last wicket before Hellyar was last man out for 21 and Barry all out for 105.

Barry then made a brilliant start by taking the wickets of Rhys Morgan and Richard Skone for 0 and 21 respectively to leave Penarth 31 for 2,

Frost taking both wickets and showing his promise and improvement throughout the season finishing with 2 for 25.

Penarth cruised to the 106 they needed in the 22nd over and an emphatic eight wicket win, this being the third time this season that Barry have been bowled out for scores between 105 and 129.

This weekend the 1st XI are away to Pontymister, the 2nd XI are at home to Pontymister and the 3rd XI are at home to Cardiff Gymkhana on Sunday.

On Saturday, August 16, Barry Athletic Cricket Club are holding an open day for the community, former players and captains, children and new players to come along; also it will give those interested in sponsoring the team a chance to come and see what the club do, what facilities they have and how the club plan to move forward in the coming years.

MR

Romilly bowlers earn Munro Cup victory

BARRY Romilly travelled the short distance to Barry Island to play Barry Athletic in the Munro Cup on Wednesday, June 25.

On a pleasant summers evening and playing on a green in superb condition the game began with Romilly edging to a five shot lead 18 - 13 after five ends.

The Romilly players were finding the conditions ideal and were bowling well and as a result progressed to a 46 - 23 advantage by the 10th end.

The Romilly rinks of Mel Newman, Fred Phillips and Mike Doyle were all holding good leads with only Clive Collins' rink struggling against the Athletic's rink skipped by Dave Snelling.

The game continued to go in Romilly's favour right to the end, winning comfortably by 69 - 51 to take 12 of the 14 points on offer.

CML DIVISION 1 After a good start to their league season Romilly were away to Gelli Park in the Rhondda who in previous seasons had always proved difficult to beat but with confidence high the 'Rom' were more than hopeful.

After five ends Romilly were finding the Gelli green quite tricky but found themselves behind by only five shots and at end ten 'The Rom' had

fought hard to take a two shot lead into the second half.

With the weather remaining good despite the forecast of heavy rain and thunder

Romilly players were bowling excellently and by the fifteenth end had moved 16 shots clear with three rinks ahead.

Over the final six ends Romilly maintained their form to hold their sixteen shot advantage to win 82 - 66 and take 12 points for a superb victory.

CML DIVISION 3 Barry Romilly 'A' side have had a poor start

to their league season mainly due to a number of players becoming unavailable and having to play against teams expected to do well in their division.

On Saturday they welcomed Ynyscynon BC from the Rhondda and another difficult afternoon was expected; this proved the case as by halfway Ynyscynon had moved into a clear lead, 25 - 42.

There was no respite for the Romilly players as the visitors strolled to a 42 shot win, 54 - 96, winning on all rinks.

FP

Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club



RESULTS for Monday, June 30:

1st John Evans & Steve Burgoyne 65.97 per cent, 2nd Marjorie Morris & Linda Pinnock 62.50, 3rd Anne Hughes & Lou Edwards 56.94.

Also this week there was a presentation of prizes to our new club champions for 2014, Graham Norris and Barrie Waite; congratulations on a well deserved win!

ALL THE FAMILY FEEL THE BENEFIT AS THEY TAKE PART IN MARGAM MINI BURN

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

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THE 'Margam Park Mini Burn' took place on Saturday, June 28, with families keen to take part.

The event was created by Welsh adventurer Maria Leijerstam and as you can see was blessed with ideal weather this year.



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School's grading success



RECENTLY the Cadoxton Schools of Tae Kwon-Do held their second colour belt grading of the year.

The grading took place at the Victoria Park Community Centre, where 24 students from as young as five years of age sat the exam. The grading was conducted by Master Ron Thomas, 8th Dan, and consisted of all aspects of this Korean martial art, patterns, set sparring, floor work, focus and power, finishing with theory test.

The grading was a success with all 24 students passing their grading, four of whom achieved top grade 'A' passes: Lucia Cunningham, Jessica Blackley, Ellie-Ann Osborne and Emily Miles, with Lucia Cunningham the deserved winner of the club's grading shield.

Successful candidates were: promoted to 10a Orange stripe: Deagan Stockford and Caydee Allen; promoted to 9th kup Orange belt: Charlie-Jade Rogers, Kiera Watson-Wood and Emily Miles; promoted to 7th Kup Green stripe: Courtney James and Leo Cummins; promoted to 6th Kup Green belt: Maddison Allen, Thea Cunningham, Ethan Andrus, Cameron Evans; promoted to 5th Kup Blue stripe: Brooke Baker and Lucia Cunningham; promoted to

4th Kup Blue belt: Jessica Blackley, Ellie-Ann Osborne, Kurtis James, Martin James and Katie Watkins; promoted to 2nd kup Red belt: Joel Wells; promoted to 1st Kup: Cody Jacobsen, Cian Allen, Daniel Quigley, Jake Quigley and Demi Baker.

Pictured with their instructors and grading examiners are the successful candidates.

For further information phone 01446 406372 or visit www.cadoxtontaekwondo.weebly.com. **RT**

Barrivale Bridge Club results

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club (June 24):

First, Lyn Matthews and Alan Jones 61.67 per cent; second, Mick Green and Tim Barsby 60.42; third, Mark Roderick and Denis Mottram, 57.50.

Lyn Matthews and Alan Jones also won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

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GEM columnist Brian Lee looks back on a long career of over half a century... CONFESSIONS OF A RACING REPORTER!

GEM columnist Brian Lee, who has been singing the praises of the Vale's Evan Williams and Tim Vaughan in this newspaper long before the *Racing Post* and other national papers cottoned on to the fact that we had trainers in this part of the world who could hold their own in the world of horseriding, looks back on almost a half-century of reporting on the Welsh horseracing scene.

My point-to-point memories go back to April 5, 1952, when I attended the Pentrych Hunt fixture just outside of Cardiff. I was a 16-year-old factory worker and the horses and riders racing over a makeshift course in the picturesque Welsh countryside – not to mention the bookies shouting the odds – made a lasting impression on me.

I was hooked, as they say, and soon became a regular fan travelling by bus to all the local meetings.

When I complained to the editor of *Horse & Hound* back in 1966 that point-to-points in my neck of the woods were not being covered by the magazine, I received a letter from their hunt-racing correspondent Hugh Condry asking me would I like to report on meetings for him.

If my memory serves me right, the first meeting I reported on was the Llangeinor Hunt Steeplechases as Penllyn, Cowbridge and where Bill Jones rode his 100th winner on Owen Stephens' *Double A*. Soon I was being asked to report on other meetings for such publications as *The Sporting Life*, *Daily Telegraph*, *Sunday Express* and *The Western Mail*. Point-to-Point racing is known as an amateur sport but like some enthusiasts, I feel it has become too professional and that a lot of the fun has gone.

Take the time a clerk of the scales forgot to bring them along. The riders ended up weighing out on a set of bathroom scales hurriedly fetched from home!



The late Gordon Lewis (left) talking to Bernard Hill (centre) and Brian Lee at Llangeinor Hunt Point-to-Point in 1987.

We all know that riders are amateurs and after I had written something not too complimentary about one of them he phoned me and threatened me with a solicitor's letter and ended his call by saying: "After all, it's my living you are writing about." Amateurs! Incidentally, that particular rider is a great friend of mine now and I have a lot of respect for him.

Judges have a difficult time without a photo-finish camera to assist them. Once, when a judge invited me on his haycart, there was a close finish to one of the races, so imagine my surprise when he turned to me and asked which horse I thought had won!

I will never forget the rider who stopped his horse from winning at a meeting held at Lower

Machen some years ago. After jumping the last in front, he slowed his horse down and was beaten a good one-and-a-half lengths.

However, the judge named him the winner just the same and even though the stewards tried to get him to change the result, he was having none of it.

Contrary to popular opinion, point-to-point correspondents do not spend all their time knocking back drinks in the sponsors' tent.

On wet and windy days, when almost everyone has taken refuge in their parked cars, they can be found pencil in one hand and soggy racecard in the other jotting down the results and interviewing owners and jockeys.

In almost half a century of reporting on the Welsh hunt-racing scene, I have been reported to the Jockey Club on several occasions, been banned from two meetings but turned up anyway.

On the one occasion I turned up I was standing near the parade ring, just yards from where the stewards were standing, when Evan Williams, who was a jockey back then, arrived at the course and on seeing me shouted out so that the stewards could hear him: "Hello Brian, what are you doing here? I thought you were banned." Evan has a wicked sense of humour.

I have been threatened by bookmakers on more than one occasion and even been accused of having an affair with a 'fellow' (female, I hasten to add) racing reporter.

However, it has all been great fun and I have met and interviewed many interesting people. Some have been rogues of the turf but others have been lords, sirs, ladies, royalty and, on one occasion at Bouillions, a countess!

While two film actors that come to mind that I met at point-to-points in the Vale were Leslie Phillips, of the *Carry On* films, and Bernard Hill, who played the captain of the ill-fated *Titanic* in the blockbuster movie of the same name.

Sports clubs share £5,640

SEVEN organisations in the Vale have shared funding from the Community Chest scheme for coaching courses and purchasing equipment.

Barry Athletic Tennis Club is using the money to encourage more adults to participate in their Cardio Tennis programme, and residents in Wick have joined together to form a village cricket club, throwing activities.

BRIDGEND BRIDGE CLUB

THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent events are:

Wednesday, June 25 - First Irene Thomas and Graham Jones, second Emer Disley and John Whateley, third Peter Bugden and Geoff Barnes.

Friday, June 27 - First, Wendy Williams and Marjorie Morris, second Vida Halford and Glyn Williams, third John Evans and Tony Disley.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesdays and Fridays at Noltan Church Hall at 7pm. We try to start at

7pm so it helps if people arrive at least 10 minutes early.

On Thursdays, from 2pm to 5pm, also at Noltan Church Hall, there are gentle bridge sessions for the less experienced where assistance is readily available. The best placed improvers for June 26 were Arthur Harvey, Mike Williams and Stuart Davies.

A new series of lessons is planned for the autumn and those interested should contact John Evans on 01656 880372 in order to register their interest.

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Cogan's festival sets up great day



Neville Southall and Craig Bellamy recently attended Cogan FC's football festival.

COGAN FC recently held their football festival for under-6s through to under-11s.

This first event for a few years saw the focus on making it affordable for all teams, as entry prices were kept to a minimum to get as many children playing as possible.

Teams travelled from all over the country to take part, even camping over, making a full weekend of the festival.

The day could not have gone any better, even with a rain shower in the morning and one in the afternoon, but this didn't stop the youngsters playing very attractive football.

The event was supported by the Neville Southall Foundation and the famous Welsh goalkeeper had a good walk around, chatting to parents and children. Another Welsh legend present was Craig Bellamy, and to have both at the event was great for the kids. **LS**

COACHING THE COACHES!

TWELVE coaches from clubs across the Vale recently attended an analysing your coaching course, as part of the Vale Council's creating confident coaches programme.

It is one of several courses run by the its sports and play development team, which aims to improve the level of coaching across the Vale.

Many other courses will be taking place in the future as part of the creating confident coaches programme, including first aid and coaching the whole child.

Bowlers slip in Munro Cup

CADOXTON'S team for the trip to Sully for a Munro Cup match was made up of mainly 'A' side players.

They were only successful with the rink which was skipped by Gordon Davies.

Scores: R. Byrne, D. Hammond, M. Curtis, S. Craven 9 - 17 E. Pryer, G. Neadley, A. Thomas, D. Curtis; E. Heppenstall, D. Fanning, D. Evans, G. Davies 18 - 16 C.

Michael, J. Bryan, H. Thomas, A. Rees; S. Clement, A. Prince, S. Clarke, D. Brook 7 - 28 P. Neale, J. Hubbard, S. Dibble, D. Edwards; J. Stacey, I. Heppenstall, H. Hellyar, I. Robertson 16 - 22 A. Smith, D. Curtin, H. L. Jones, C. Best. Final score: 50 - 83.

CADOXTON V CARDIFF WEST END - ML4
Cadoxton were the visitors to Fairwater, the new venue for Cardiff West End.

Regrettably the home side were short of players and they had to play the match with triples, which included the loan of one of Cadoxton's players. Cadoxton easily won the match 14 - 0.

Scores: S. Clarke, J. Crout, D. Brook, H.

Craven 17 - 3 3/4 K. Davies, R. Pritchard, J. Dunscombe; P. Swannick, R. Harding, P. Ellis, K. Chedzoy 29 - 3 D. Pugh, F. Permintela, R. Jerrett; D. Evans, G. Davies, D. Kuhnell 19 - 9 P. Tyrell, J. Stacey, M. Royle; H. Hellyar, A. Carpenter, I. Robertson, J. Jones 21 - 6 1/4 A. Camp, T. Watts, K. Twine. Final score: 86 - 22 1/2.

CADOXTON 'A' V ROATH PARK - ML5

Once again, the Cadoxton 'A' side were short of players for their ML5 match against Roath Park. Originally, when the team was selected, they had a full team but unfortunately some of these pulled out for various reasons.

Subsequently, they were well beaten once more.

Scores: G. Powell, R. Morris, G. Solomon 6 - 34; E. Heppenstall, D. Fanning, A. Turner 14 - 29; S. Clements, A. Prince, R. Cole, M. Curtis 8 - 46; R. Byrne, D. Hammond, D. Tuck 7 - 26. Final score: 35 - 135. **DK**

Cottrell ladies enjoy a glorious afternoon



The winners are presented with a Bonsai tree.

COTTRELL Park Ladies Section enjoyed a glorious afternoon recently, starting with a nine-hole Texas Scramble competition playing both the Mackintosh and the Button Gwinnett Course.

The winning team for the Button Scramble were Patricia Haines, Carol Bunyan, Jan Cosby and Patsie Smith. The winning team from the Mackintosh Scramble were Julia

Evans, Mary Davies, Rusty Fone and Sandra Collin. Nearest the pin winner on the Button course second hole was Margaret Thomas. Nearest the pin winner on the Mackintosh course for both fourth and eighth hole was Sandra Collin. The winning teams were presented with a Bonsai tree from organiser Lorraine Pointon-Bell with a barbecue supplied by Spiro Caterers. **ES**

Your chance to see the world's top bowlers in action!

AS part of Commonwealth Games final preparations, New Zealand and Ireland will be competing against two teams from Wales, in a final test match at Barry Athletic and Dinas Powys Bowling Clubs.

This will also include the visually impaired and para bowlers.

On Thursday, July 10, there are three-hour practice sessions starting at 9am (men morning and ladies afternoon). The test match takes

place on July 11 with ladies matches all day; on July 12 there are men's matches all day, with finals on July 13 (lunchtime finish). Play will start at 9am on each day.

This is a really exciting event for Wales as part of our final Commonwealth Games preparations, so we hope to see as many

interested spectators as possible and help the Welsh teams to victory in Glasgow 2014.

For further information, contact Hazel Wilson, haze1222@hotmail.com, or telephone 01686 6688. **CC**

App aims to help golfers

THE Vale Resort in Hensol has launched a free bespoke golf app, which acts as a 3D-GPS distance device, making it the first club in Wales to have CGI flyovers of both their courses to help players improve their game.

Available to download from Google Play and the Apple app store, the Vale Resort golf app benefits from pin-positioning technology.

"The flyover technology allows golfers to watch the journey to the green through aerial shots of each hole, offering insight on how the course should be best played, before teeing off. "We're delighted to offer our bespoke app as a free downloadable tool," said the Vale Resort's golf manager Clive Coombs.

"This technology revolutionises how golfers can prepare before heading out to play a round on either of our championship-winning courses. "Visitors can take a look at the quality of the

courses before they book giving them extra peace of mind. We're the first club in Wales to have the full system installed - the GPS app, the Golf Flyover and access to the system in our golf buggies and on screens at the resort."

The app and its GPS technology is also available on fixed screens secured to the resort's golf buggies. It informs players of the size of the green on each hole, trees, water hazards, bunkers and paths that can obstruct the path of play.

Mr Coombs added: "Through our app, golfers can see hole-by-hole what's on offer, be it the mixture of wide and narrow fairways, water features or wooded areas - it's a unique system of technology which sets the stage for anyone coming to visit us."

The Wales National Course and the Lake Course have been host to a number of PGA golf tournaments including several Wales Seniors Open tournaments and Wales Challenge tournaments.

VALUABLE WIN FOR BARRY CENTRAL

THE Barry Central team entertained the Murch at Gladstone Gardens.

Looking forward to their first win in the CML this season, there was an air of expectancy in the team prior to going on to the green while having to wait for a while to allow the rain to clear.

With the opposition arriving with a few players short and the weather being as it was, both captains decided that the

game should take place over 15 ends.

There was quite a difference in the rink scores during the afternoon and after a slow start, within a few ends, skips H. Spencer and D. Goddard started to pull away from their rivals and with Goddard's team scoring a five on the fourth end and a six on the ninth end, their game was as good as won.

Similarly Spencer's rink picked up 15 shots after six

ends without reply which gave them an a great start with the Murch team unable to catch up.

Things were slightly different on the other two rinks with captain J. Wathes and T. Kaged finding it hard work to keep up with the opposition.

Wathes' rink only managed to score on three of the ends played while Kaged's rink had a similar struggle with excellent bowling coming from the opposition.

However with the other two rinks well up Central came out winners by 66 shots to 52 to gain a valuable 10 point win.

I would be grateful to all our friends in the area to ignore the comments that the Central mens team are having a meeting to disband. This is totally incorrect and we are looking forward to completing our fixtures for the rest of this year. **GT**

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Pyle and Kenfig Hill Community Fun Day introduces themes from past and present

LOCAL people had a wonderful time at Pyle and Kenfig Hill Community Fun Day. As you can see from the photographs all ages – especially the youngsters – were keen to dress up and bask in the glorious summer weather.



A Pyle Community Council spokesman explained: "This year's fun day was set to a theme of 'All the fun of a Victorian Fair' with many smallholders dressed in Victorian costume.

"For the second year the day included a classic car show with over 130 cars on display.

"The fun day is promoted by Pyle Community Council and was opened by the Chair of the Council Coun Gina Hooper escorted by the Festival Queen and her attendants.

"The fiercely contested mini rugby tournament was won by Bridgend Sports.



SOS FOR VOLUNTEER BEFRIENDERS

BRIDGEND Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) urgently need volunteer befrienders for older people in the county borough.

"Co-ordinated by BAVO, the Big Lottery funded Community Companions Over 50s befriending scheme waiting list is getting bigger and we need people with big hearts to help out. Out of pocket travel expenses are covered and full training given," said Helen Jones, community companions befriender.

"I'm self-employed and decided to stop practising as an optometrist so I could concentrate on other aspects of my business, while working fewer hours. I looked into pursuing other interests and felt that I was in the lucky position of being able to volunteer.

"I met with BAVO's volunteer co-ordinators and they told me about befriending and some befriending schemes that had volunteer opportunities. I



Helen Jones (volunteer befriender) with Marian English.

immediately liked the sound of volunteering to befriending older people and decided this was the project I wanted to be involved with.

"I have been a volunteer befriender with the project now for the last eight months. I have been visiting a lady called Marian English, who is 93 years. She has a very

varied and interesting past and I visit her each week. I get a tremendous feeling of satisfaction when she tells me she enjoys our little chat.

"I was pleased to be able to take Marian to the Community Companions Christmas party, giving her the opportunity to do something different and meet people her own age. It has been lovely to meet and make new friends with other volunteers and the BAVO staff who provide fantastic support.

"As a consequence of my weekly visits, I have noticed that my listening skills have improved in many situations and the training sessions provided by the project have made me more aware of people's individual needs.

"Being a volunteer befriender has really benefited me, as it is nice to take a step away from a busy life to spend time with someone just simply chatting over a cup of tea, while knowing that that she gets so much out of it," Helen concluded.

